

# Caustic Truths!

ISSUE # 78  
April / May 2001

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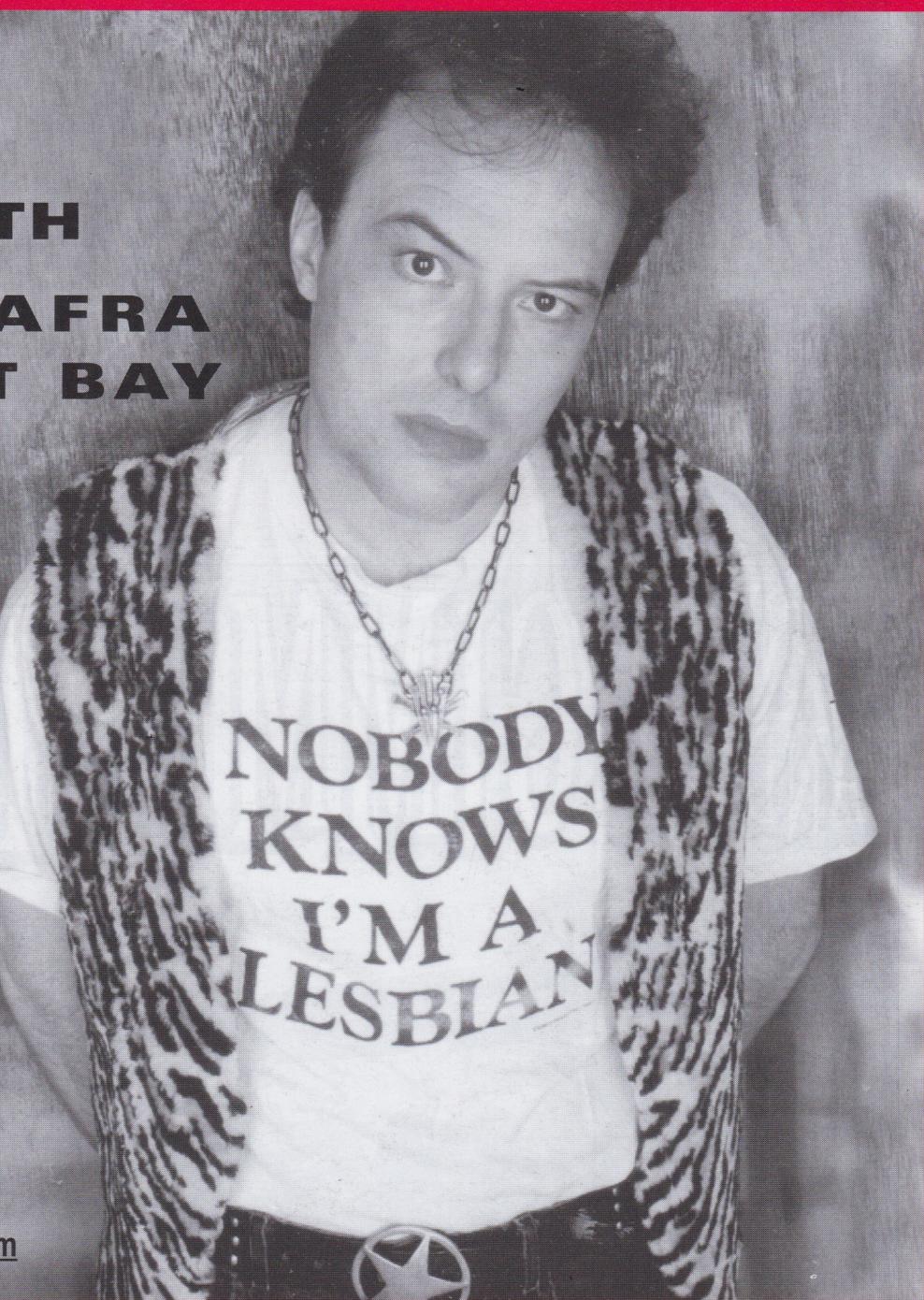
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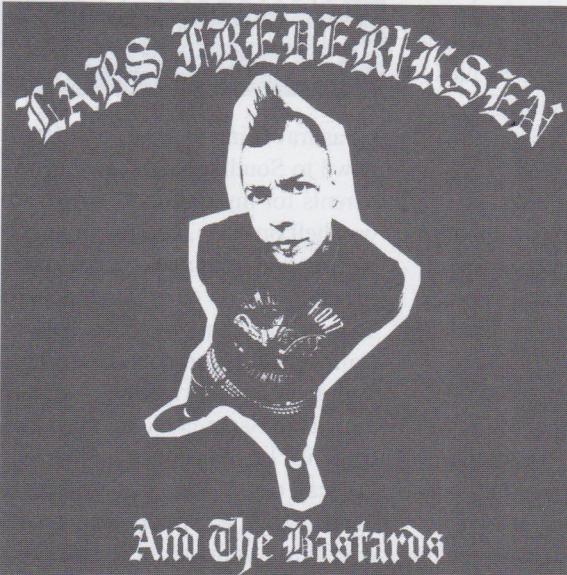
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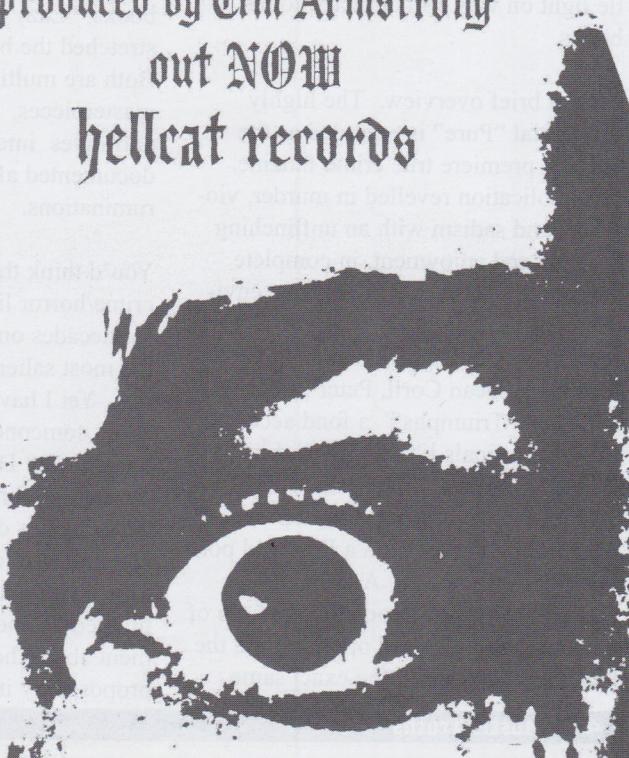
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# COLUMNS

## PETER SOTOS: An Appreciation *by Jack Link*

Context and details. All of Peter Sotos' output has dealt with these themes in one form or another, from his initial, explosive efforts in "Pure" to his later, intensely personal books "Lazy" and "Tick." His surgically precise analysis of true crime and pornography is often overwhelming in its sheer brutality that only through repeated readings can one fully appreciate him as a great, if not brilliant, writer.

Peter who? Longime member of extreme electronic trio Whitehouse. But primarily responsible for some of the most mind jarring prose ever. He was recently spotlighted in the latest issue of Panik fanzine as well as an abortive, practically useless 5 minutes with radio oaf Howard Stern. Those familiar with the name aren't ambiguous about their opinions. Either they're passionate admirers of his work, regardless of their own ulterior motives, or absolutely repulsed, sickened, and quick to label him as a mere smut peddler/kidie fucker. By no means am I out to convert fans, but I will try to shed a little light on why I'm attracted to his books.

First, a brief overview. The highly influential "Pure" is regarded as the world's premiere true crime fanzine. His publication revelled in murder, violence, and sadism with an unflinching honesty and enjoyment, in complete contrast to the ultra-conservative environment of the mid-eighties when it was released. Articles included gushing tributes to Dean Corll, Peter Sutcliffe, and "Nazi Triumphs," a fond account of war criminals like Klaus Barbie. Issue two landed him in jail, with charges of possession of child pornography, a photo taken from a Euro-kid porn rag gracing its cover. And though he was harassed for reproducing a photo of a young child's spread open vagina, the local news broadcast the exact same

image when covering his arrest. He was later acquitted.

In the recent Panik interview, he revealed much regret over this legal trouble. Interestingly, he also states that his life and work aren't merely shaped by this event. They were always shaped by his tastes and interests, and Sotos continues to explore them to this day.

Subsequent publications reveal an evolution and maturity, as Sotos' digs deeper into himself and his excesses for inspiration. I'm doing a great disservice by limiting my descriptions to a mere few sentences because whole books should be dedicated to his work. All 3 issues of "Pure" plus "Tool," his first novel, and "Parasite"(a collection of his porn/crime newsletters), were compiled for "Total Abuse" and published by Jim Goad. His following book "Index" furthered his melding of incisive media criticism, personal psycho-drama, much of it revolving around frenzied, anonymous glory hole activity, and some of the most harrowing descriptions of violence and sexual depravity. "Special" was produced as a limited edition by Rude Shape publications and continued in the same, immensely readable vein. His last two books, "Lazy" and "Tick" really stretched the boundaries of his craft. Both are multi-layered, multi-contextual masterpieces. Fictional and personal narratives inter-weave with real crimes, documented aftermaths, and his own ruminations.

You'd think that after reading crime/horror literature and non-fiction for decades one would be jaded by even the most salient descriptions of atrocities. Yet I haven't felt this passionate about someone's writing since De Sade's "120 Days of Sodom" burned through my brain in high school. Sotos never waters down his work with humanitarian concerns such as morality, love, kindness. One would be hard pressed to find a more convincing argument about the futility of censorship as proposed by its opposers, who unfortu-

nately are bogged down by the aforementioned concerns. Yet read his take on child pornography and the media circus surrounding the Jon Benet Ramsey case in "Apocalypse Culture II," and you'll find more insight into what classifies as child pornography, its uses, and damage than in all of child defender Andrew Vachss' entire criminal literary career. Sotos understands that it's all about context and detail. In the painful, torrid, yet mundane minutiae glossed over by the press and "true" crime reports, which Sotos unearths to bring that much more life to the victims and hence, excitement to the crimes. And the use of even the most accessible material to fuel your perverted passions.

I was tempted to quote passages from his books but decided against it since it would be taking them out of the context of whole. This would be a great injustice, and would only seem like a mere attempt at shock value. This is a warning. I guarantee that you've never read anything like this.

## SOUTHPAW *by Andrew Scott Taylor*

I was travelling by bus, from Seattle, down to Southern California to visit my parents for my birthday. Greyhound was hell on earth, and the monotony was broken up only by occasional stops in sad towns I'd never been in before. Twenty towns in Oregon, a few on the California/Oregon border, and in the 20th hour of the trip we got kicked off the bus in Sacramento so they could clean it. I had been trying to sleep on the way down, but I just couldn't get comfortable, and I had been awake for over thirty hours at this point. When I staggered into the Sacto bus terminal at four in the morning, I was pretty wrecked. We had an hour layover, so I sat in yet another uncomfortable chair to wait it out.

I was listening to music with my head between my knees and my hood up. Someone brushed against me and I looked up. It was a frumpy, slightly

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overweight, middle-aged woman with a big smile. She wore horn-rimmed glasses, and a floral pattern skirt with a button-up sweater, which was mis-buttoned somewhere and hung awkwardly around her body.

She asked if she could have a seat next to me. I said sure. She sat down and I turned my tape player back on.

After about five minutes she nudged me again. I politely said "Yes?" She asked me where I was from and where I was going. I told her. She said she was from Salem, Oregon. We had passed through there on the way down, and it was kind of a sad-looking place. She was visiting her sister here in Sacramento, she explained, but her sister wasn't at the terminal to meet her. She didn't seem too upset by this, if not a little disappointed. She went on to say how she lives by herself and likes to walk along the beach and collect seashells. She said all of her family is gone, except for her sister. She had started to make me sad, and I wanted to make her feel better and listened with genuine interest. But she related all of this with a weary smile, as if she knew she had been dealt a particularly lonesome hand, but was going to do the best she could with it. The way she spoke, I knew she wasn't looking for sympathy, just someone to listen.

She took out a blanket it looked like she had been knitting. I asked her if she made it. She answered yes, she knits and sews for a living. I told her I had learned to knit when I was in Rhode Island the previous winter. She beamed at me, and asked if I wanted to learn how to crochet.

My head was pounding because I was so tired, and I was sick to my stomach because I hadn't eaten anything for over 24 hours. I felt sorry for this woman from Salem, Oregon, but I also felt like putting my hood back up and closing my eyes. Instead I said yes. So she began discussing the rudiments of crochet. She explained that it is much more difficult than a regular knit. I knew this. She said she had taught herself how to do all this without any aid,

because she was left-handed and the instruction books couldn't help her. That made me kind of want to cry.

So there in the Greyhound terminal in the capital of California at 4:30 in the morning, I, a twenty-year-old punk kid from Seattle, learned how to crochet. Although, I was pretty poor at it. I tried it a little bit, fumbling with the yarn, and I'm sure if I tried it now I wouldn't remember how to do it at all. The whole time she talked up a storm, relating on-the-job knitting anecdotes, knits gone awry, how she had once sewed six pairs of pants in one hour for \$200, etc. I was sort of fascinated with her.

It had been almost an hour. Her sister still hadn't shown up. My bus was boarding. I felt bad having to leave her there, by herself, in Sacramento. I thanked her and wished her good luck. With a sigh, she told me to enjoy my trip and that it was nice talking. I agreed. I waved goodbye and headed toward the gate. I heard her yell "Wait." I went back over to her. Giving me a sweet, slightly self-conscious smile, she handed me her bag-tag with her name, address, and phone number on it. I didn't really know what to say, but I wanted to give her a hug. I should have done that. I think about it sometimes. I should have. Instead I said, "Oh...thank you!" And got on my bus. I put her tag in my wallet. I still have it. Martha from Salem, Oregon. As soon as I find one, I'm going to send her a left-handed knitting/crochet book. I want her to know that at least one person listened to her, and wants to brighten her day.

\*If you would like to write me, my address is 5321 Roosevelt Way NE. Seattle. WA. 98105. USA.

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**We Shall Overcome Bush: Tales of Inaugural Resistance**

Arriving at the demonstration organized by the IAC we immediately heard the drums pounding and the chant of "This is what democracy looks like!" We felt at home.

One key distinction between this protest and the one sponsored by JAM was that the organising of the event began even before the election results were determined. As IAC co-director Brian Becker put it, "We would have been here if Bush or Gore won. We are protesting this overall system of injustice." The messages conveyed, however, did focus on Bush's right-wing ideology and cabinet appointments. The slogans "BUSH=RACISM" and "WE SHALL OVERCOME BUSH" were printed on signs mass-produced by the IAC for protesters to hold. Another popular sign contained an image of a male pig's body attached to the head of archconservative John Ashcroft, Bush's appointee for Attorney General. The unforgettable image was accompanied by the phrase, "ASHCROFT IS A RACIST, SEXIST PIG." Other issues that were covered included the abolition of the death penalty, Mumia Abu Jamal's freedom, the rights of Palestinians, an end to the sanctions on Iraq and Cuba, the unification of Korea, and the rights of gay, lesbian and transgender people.

The street adjacent to Freedom Plaza was filled with people. In order for the activists to enter the Plaza, which was directly along the parade route, we had to go through a "checkpoint." Here, authority figures examined the width of protest signs and the insides of backpacks and purses. While waiting in line for the checkpoint we saw a group of the New Black Panthers storm past the security guards with their black clothing and berets; a very impressive display.

Although this area was overflowing with demonstrators, as it was the location of the main protest of Bush's inauguration, there were several Republican events occurring in offices buildings and restaurants in the vicinity. This pro-

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duced many priceless interactions between the militant activists and the conservative Bush enthusiasts. One small group of Republicans, all sporting either pricey business suits or fur coats, bravely trekked through the swarm of radicals that had taken over 14th St. "Look around, you do not belong here!" screamed an anarchist youth at the cluster of bourgeoisie. "These are our streets you rich motherfuckers!"

Along Pennsylvania Avenue there were two sets of bleachers to provide an adequate view of the inaugural parade. Many of the protesters that inhabited Freedom Plaza climbed the bleachers with our signs.

Representatives from the IAC set up their sound equipment at the base of the bleachers and spoke to the crowd for a few hours until the parade concluded. Larry Holmes, co-director of the IAC, later informed the crowd that the bleachers had actually been reserved for Republican elites. The Washington Post, which had decent coverage of the protests with two fairly balanced articles the following day, took special note of this action: "thousands more (protesters) filled Freedom Plaza, brushing past a line of Girl Scouts in yellow slickers to seize bleacher seats that had been reserved for Republican loyalists. From these \$50 perches, as shocked members of the Presidential Inaugural Committee looked on, the protesters chanted: 'George Bush, racist, murderer.'" Holmes referred to this as a "revolutionary moment."

After a two hour delay the parade began. The marines and other armed officials marched down the street only to be ferociously booed by the thousands of demonstrators that awaited them. Eventually a number of shiny black limousines, one supplying the body of the new president, whizzed by us and received an even more defiant "welcome." Bush, following a national tradition, eventually stepped out of the limo and walked with his wife Laura for

the last mile. This provided a perfect photo opportunity despite the appropriately gloomy weather conditions.

The inaugural protest was a success in many ways. First of all, it had the largest turnout since the protest of Richard Nixon's second inauguration which was at the height of the anti-Vietnam War movement. Also, as Brian Becker pointed out, "This is precisely the scene that the Bush administration did everything to prevent. They didn't want to see thousands of placard-waving protestors opposed to his conservative policies, and we've done it." It brought a broad coalition of people together against a common enemy in Dubya, sending a message that the people will not remain compliant for four years. "We shall overcome Bush!"

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## MY EMPLOYER GREASES MY PALMS AND THEN PICKS MY POCKET

**by Terri-Lynne Waldon**

Truth be told: You work and you get paid...right? In a perfect yet unrealistic world we expect to do the time and collect the dime (and then some). But when I casually glance at my paycheque I realise that something is amiss. That rather small cheque looks even smaller than it is supposed to. Welcome to déjà vu! My employer does it again: they 'accidently' rip me off a not too small chunk of change. No skin off their nose, and besides, they have more pressing matters to attend to than an easily disposable employee who has been short-changed.

Can I really call this being 'ripped-off'? You bet I can! Especially if there is a host of other unsuspecting victims to this crime. I carefully analyse my cheque with a fine tooth comb every two weeks but what of those other employees who don't? They may have no idea that this safe

haven that they work in should not be taken at face value. After investigating the matter further, I find out that some of my all-too-trusting newly-arrived co-workers never question the figures on the front of their cheque. How can I enlighten them and burst their bubble at the same time?

I sat over to the person sitting closest to me and get ready to break the bad news, but not before I quickly scan the room for sign of management. One needs to cover their tracks if one is on the verge of revealing one of the company's best kept secrets. It is not hard to figure out that the higher ups would frown upon my plan and any knowledge of what I am about to do would probably have serious repercussions for me.

"Do you keep records of your hours?" I whisper knowing what the answer will be. "No...why?" answers my soon-to-be-clued in employee. This is when I drop the bombshell and wait for the predictable look of disbelief. I then go on to explain the truth about the company whose payroll practices are less than desirable. "But hey," I say sarcastically, "There are so many employees that it must be difficult to be accurate all the time." My new buddy smirks knowingly. Why would the company care that their employees depend on this money for their livelihood to keep ourselves afloat? Chalk it up to typical big company office practices. I am nothing more than a little fish in a big pond to them... or an insignificant fly on the wall.

But do you think my payroll manager appreciates it when I show him the error of his ways? Of course not! The scowl that he gives me speaks volumes: how dare you bring this to my attention. What do I care if you have to cut corners because of my screw up. But I ignore the look on his face. Too bad he can't see things from my side. I am sure that deep down he may empathise with my predicament, but he has to

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come across as detached because of his position in the company.

Do you get the picture? Imagine the hundred of dollars that people are getting ripped-off due to the miscalculations of others. It is not spite (against my employers) that leads me to spill the beans, it is simply the desire to let the underdog get what is rightfully their own. We have to fight for what we deserve because if we don't, then this type of situation may rear its ugly head again in the future.

### A VARIATION ON THE FATHER AND SON CHAT

by Chris Keynesz

There comes a time in a young man's life when his father takes him aside to speak to him about the intimacies of life. For most, this discussion revolves around sex, but as my father is somewhat of a petty criminal, this discussion revolved around "rippin' off the man." "Life is a series of events designed to beat you down." he slowly began. "Today is the beginning of your training, in hopes that you can resist this mounting negativity and ultimately strike back against "the system," in a subtle but nonetheless effective manner." I remember frantically searching my brain for the terms "the system" and "mounting negativity" from my time in the sex education course at school. I didn't recall Playboy magazine ever referring to them. "There are many techniques, when taken into account separately, amount to minuscule gains. But by the end of the year you will discover you have saved yourself a substantial portion of money and earned a tiny sum as well." Is he going to prostitute me?

"Dad, what does this have to do with sex?"

"Absolutely nothing! I'm talking about money. Ways of keeping it and ways of taking it from the man without him

knowing. If you want to know about sex, call your mom and her new boyfriend, I'm sure they have videos. Now do you want to learn about the value of money or not?" With my consent given his eyes lit up. I think he was always unsure whether I was his son, given my mother's social tendencies, but when I showed an interest in money, his concerns were absolved. I wasn't really interested in money, I was just glad he was paying attention to me.

"Now I'm not advocating committing hardcore crimes, like robbing a bank or something. I'm just saying that there are things you can do on an everyday basis that can save you money at times and make you money at others."

He went on to impart to me in the span of 30 hours, spread out over three days, the wisdom that would surely define me as my father's son. I will now pass on five forms of artistry involved in the science of ripping off.

The first art form is often overlooked as too obvious, and that is where its power resides. Don't like or agree with the price of a certain product? Change it. This is a delicate undertaking. You cannot go into a shop and switch the price of a stereo system with the price of a VHS tape; people would sense something is amiss. Always use common sense when committing a crime. It is important to point out that this strategy doesn't work well in a store that has computerized all its stock, which most stores nowadays have done. It is art form that shines best in a small time "ma & pa" shop. Just imagine the obscene heyday my father had when he has younger and there was nothing but "ma & pa" shops. No doubt he was at the height of his super-villainy.

The second art form has an added benefit of helping to save the environment. Don't let that discourage you; there is money in it for you. Returning beer bottles has been the proud heritage of homeless people throughout North America and they are on to something. Even if they were not themselves the swiller of the potent potable, they can at

least make a few dollars off the alcohol induced shortsightedness of the actual consumer. Here is where the ripping off can occur. Gather enough bottles together to return for profit and slip into the returns some non-refundable or slightly broken bottles (which are also not refundable). This art form is nearly 100% effective. The only time you would be caught is by a very diligent worker, who generally only lasts about half a day in the job before he gets advanced into management.

Coupons seem like a legitimate practice but even here you can bend the rules. My father has pushed the ethical limits of coupon use. Expiry dates do not dissuade this man hell-bent on evil doing. He will cut off the dates at the drop of grape in the produce isle. He also possesses the gall to try and use a coupon for one product on a different product as long as it shares the manufacturer's name. It is surprising again the high success rate of this strategy.

Sometimes manufacturers will offer a refund or rebate on their products if the purchaser sends in enough proofs of purchase. There is always the stipulation that there can only be one refund per household. Let me just say that it is not uncommon at my father's home to have refunds addressed up to 15 different apartment occupants. If Mr. J.M. Schneider knew that no more than 4 people could comfortably live in my father's bungalow, he would spin in his wiener grave.

The last art form involves an abuse of the mailing system; perhaps there is reason why they are so disgruntled? Even though the price of stamps slowly increased over the years, they are still regarded as a small expense. Well, why have them as an expense at all? The artistry of ripping off ignores no target too small. My father has not paid for a stamp since the 1970's. He has taken stamps off mail he has received and put them on mail he needs to send. The only catch with this practice is you do need someone to initially send you something in the mail that has an actual stamp and has not just been put through

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a postage meter. It is fortunate that the myriad of paternity suits my father gets are still hand mailed.

A father has great responsibility to impart the wisdom he has collected over the years to his offspring. It is through doing; the child will be able to learn from the mistakes of the father. In my case, I have avoided doing any hard time in the "big house" but I am still left with the quandary of whether "mounting negativity" is a sexual term.

## RIP OFF! By Mauly Daft

I've had quite a good record of NOT getting ripped off. In the past I must have sent hundreds of dollars to people I didn't know to get their records and zines. I guess I've been pampered living in the punk rock DIY scene. Recently, in the period of a month, I got ripped off twice "in the real world" and I felt powerless.

The first incident I was working at a vegetarian restaurant and was sent out the nearby No Frills to pick up some frozen corn. While there I got a couple items for myself. The cashier rang in the corn. Then she rang in my order. Then I stuffed the receipt and change in my pocket and went back to work. At work I found out I'd been chintzed on my own food. Basically she'd punched in the wrong cash I handed her, tried to correct it but really didn't try that hard and I was out \$10. After work, I went back and explained my problem. A women took my receipt and said at the end of the day, when they did the math, I'd get my money if the till was out. I walked away confident, then wary as I realized people's tills are ALWAYS out ...and no offense but these were high school students working there and they don't tend to have good math skills (much like me!). The next day I mentioned what happened to a co-worker at the restaurant and it turned out she had worked for that No Frills. She told me I would have trouble getting my money back. The head cashier was a stubborn horrible old

lady and the guy who owned the place couldn't give a shit. She said she'd talk to the old lady for me. After a 10 minute conversation, she came back and said it looked pretty bleak, they didn't find an extra 10 bucks. I was gearing myself up, and getting pissed off, and I went after work to find out that the women wasn't in. So there I was, \$10 cheated, they had my receipt and the next time I was working was A WEEK away. It was a neighbourhood I only went to for work. On one hand \$10 was a lot of money considering I was making minimum wage. On the other, it was a \$4 TTC trip or a 40 min bike ride for probably a big let down. I considered staging a protest and sitting in the old bag's office until they gave me my money, but frankly, I had better things to do. So I let it be. I'm still pissed about it but am not sure if the energy fighting it would have been well spent.

A few weeks later, I quit my job and went to the land of oranges for two weeks. My way back home was an exhausting trip as I was doing everything on the cheap and it took me a four bus rides just to get to the airport an hour away. I nearly missed my plane because the greyhound bus was 45min late. So I get into T.O and trudge up to the Airport Express bus only to find out that "This bus goes downtown, not to Islington station" and that "We stopped service to Islington yesterday". WHAT?! I'd been taking that damn bus to the airport for years! No body told me this was happening when I bought my round trip ticket two weeks before. The sour faced woman at the booth told me that yes, it was true, there was no service and that if I wanted to use my ticket to get to the subway (one stop in from Islington) I'd have to pay an extra \$8. What could I do, it was the only way to get home if I didn't want to spend \$50 on a taxi (or so I thought). So I begrudgingly paid the extra money and caught the next bus. Then, to my horror, I found out we weren't going to the subway first, it was LAST on the list. The first stops were about 6 hotels in the downtown core! Christ! I ended

up getting off at a randomly chosen one so I wouldn't have to wait a fucking hour just to get dropped off at the subway. It was 11pm at night, I had been travelling since 1 pm, I was tired, I had way too much stuff, and I was FUMING! I curse the name of AIRPORT EXPRESS! May they die a horrible death on the stock exchange! One good tidbit of info: the TTC now run a bus to the airport, thank god, as this was the ONLY big city I've been to that didn't do that. Small victories....

## IF YOU THOUGHT NAFTA SPELLED TROUBLE By Michelle Steinberg

### Free Trade Area of the Americas: Fueling the Race to the Bottom

On April 20-22 in Quebec City, Canada, leaders of thirty-four nations will meet to further the ratification of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), set for completion before 2005. This "effort to unite the economies of the Western Hemisphere [excluding Cuba] into a single free trade arrangement" began during the Organization of American States (OAS) December 1994 Summit of the Americas in Miami. According to the OAS, "These [FTAA] negotiations will encompass all of those areas previously negotiated and which fall within the World Trade Organization's ambit, with the goal of going beyond previously agreed multilateral liberalization within the Hemisphere, wherever possible."

Similar to the World Trade Organization (WTO), FTAA decisions occur behind closed doors amongst non-elected officials. The process involves a three-tiered model of appointed international representatives: the Trade Ministers of the Western Hemisphere (who have met four times since 1994), Vice Ministers of Trade, and 9 FTAA Negotiating Groups. While the business community has direct access to these proceedings, officials have blatantly

rejected the presence of any citizens, groups. Instead, they have established the Committee of Government Representatives on Civil Society Participation, a mechanism that filters all public concerns through an ineffectual government delegation.

## A Recipe for Disaster

If implemented, FTAA policies, a more extreme version of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), will spread the latter's devastating effects throughout the Americas, further broadening the disparities between rich and poor and destroying the environment, as corporate interests continue to take precedence above all else. With its expanded scope of negotiable areas, FTAA will impact most every aspect of our lives, including workers' rights, agriculture, healthcare, immigration, education, and the prison industrial complex. The proposed agreement embodies the neoliberal principles that have guided "globalization", allowing market forces to dictate every interaction. Service sectors, such as schools, medical care, postal delivery, prisons, and water supplies will necessarily become fair game for privatization.

Modeled after NAFTA's infamous Chapter 11, FTAA will undermine the regulatory power of sovereign nations by permitting corporations to initiate "investor-to-state" lawsuits over any legislation that may impact their profits. For example, a NAFTA tribunal ordered the Mexican government to pay \$16.7 million in compensation to the U.S.-based Metalclad Corporation, after a Mexican state shut-down the company's toxic waste disposal facility, a contaminant to the local water supply. The ruling found that despite the site's destructive effects, the State Governor's actions (prompted by the concerned local community) had violated the corporation's inalienable "right" to profit. Furthermore, the exorbitant penalty was based on the concept of "regulatory expropriation", whereby a government is respon-

sible for compensating a corporation not only for actual material loss, but for any potential profits that could have been attained in the future. Such rulings foster a system where governments, legally accountable to corporations, allow business interests to dictate the shape of any future legislation.

Meanwhile, FTAA's lack of enforceable labor protections guarantees that workers throughout the hemisphere will suffer decreased wages and a decline in working conditions. Corporations will shuttle around their factories, relocating to countries that offer the lowest wages and weakest unions. Under the NAFTA, nearly 400,000 jobs were lost and re-employed workers earn an average of 77% of their previous wages. To ensure the lowest operating expenses in their Mexican maquiladoras, employers routinely engage in violent union busting. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the United Electrical Workers Union have both passed resolutions condemning FTAA, citing NAFTA's negative impact.

While borders remain wide open to goods and services, people are not allotted similar privileges. The maintenance of a cheap workforce requires a "captive audience", as laborers with the option to migrate would likely seek out better conditions. Thus, FTAA will inevitably lead to further militarization of borders and

a vicious crack-down on immigration.

FTAA also seeks to extend Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), the rules which protect corporate patents, allowing a company with marketing rights in a particular country, to maintain an exclusive patent for the entire region. These laws enable pharmaceutical companies, for instance, to charge inflated prices for drugs, while blocking the manufacture of generic versions. In Brazil, where the government has sponsored an effective program to provide free AIDS drugs, FTAA will ban the essential generic medicines. Millions of people, unable to afford the costly brand name alternatives, will no longer have

the option of treatment.

The existing proposals will also force countries to accept any agricultural imports, effectively breaking down barriers for large agri-businesses. As cheaper agricultural products flood their local markets, small family farms (in many countries, a primary form of subsistence for indigenous populations) are suddenly unable to compete. Forced off their land by economic necessity, and often actual displacement as governments award land rights to multinational corporations, many people face factory work as the only option.

FTAA also prohibits individual governments from banning genetically modified (GM) foods and seeds. This policy's implications for public health and the environment are potentially devastating. GM seeds contain gene sequences specifically engineered to decrease a plant's vulnerability to insects. Unfortunately, the repercussions of this deliberate toxicity to pests are virtually unknown. In addition, giant corporations such as Monsanto (coincidentally, a major manufacturer of Agent Orange in the 1960's) own patents to the seeds, and often force farmers to sign a pledge that makes seed replanting illegal, thus ensuring return customers every season. This presents an economic impossibility for small farmers, enabling corporate agriculture to triumph again.

## Rise Up, Fight Back!

An array of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), unions, grassroots groups, and concerned individuals have united to contest FTAA's decidedly undemocratic process and its intended goals. Alliance for Responsible Trade (ART), which includes representatives of environmental, human-rights, U.S. labor, women's, family-farm, development, religious, and public-policy organizations, has presented the Committee of Government Representatives on Civil Society Participation with "Alternatives for the Americas: Building a Hemispheric Peoples' Agreement".

## COLUMNS

The document contends that "trade and investment should not be ends in themselves, but rather the instruments for achieving just and sustainable development. Citizens must have the right to participate in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of hemispheric social and economic policies. Central goals of these policies should be to promote economic sovereignty, social welfare, and reduced inequality at all levels."

Broad coalitions are planning massive demonstrations in Quebec City during the April convention, as well as solidarity actions along both US/Canadian and US/Mexican borders, and throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. The Anti-Capitalist Convergence (CLAC) and Summit of the Americas Welcoming Committee (CASA) are organizing a Carnival Against Capitalism, which will include teach-ins, workshops, concerts, street theater, direct action, protests, and more. An autonomous, decentralized,

and non-hierarchical network, CLAC/CASA intends to shutdown the anti-democratic proceedings. The Hemispheric Social Alliance (HSA), a coalition of organizations and social movements from North, Central and South America will simultaneously convene in Quebec for the Second People's Summit of the Americas, designed to challenge neo-liberal development models and generate alternative policies.

By January, Canadian border patrol had already begun to turn away suspected demonstrators. Canadian authorities, preparing the largest police deployment in the country's history, will establish a four square mile security perimeter in downtown Quebec, surrounded by an enormous metal fence. There are plans to clear six hundred plus inmates from a local prison for the duration of the Summit to house arrested protestors. Local legislators also unsuccessfully attempted to pass a bylaw which would have made it illegal to "wear or have in your possession a

mask, hood, ski mask, or any other object of the same nature to cover one's face, in whole or in part." The intensity of the state's authoritarian response is not surprising. As the overall movement to contest global capitalism continues to grow, that system's guardians persist in cutting back the rights of its opponents.

### **Get Involved:**

Throughout the Western Hemisphere preparations are underway, including teach-ins, organizational meetings, and preliminary protests. For further information visit:

[www.stopftaa.org](http://www.stopftaa.org) - Comprehensive resource page, sponsored by Freedom Rising

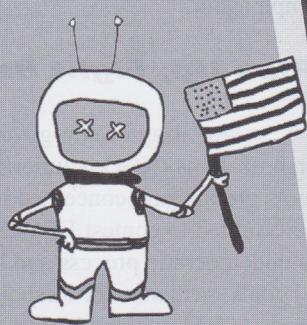
[www.quebec2001.org](http://www.quebec2001.org) - CLAC/ Carnival Against Capitalism

[www.sommetsdespeuples.org](http://www.sommetsdespeuples.org) - HAS/ People's Summit of the Americas

[www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org) - Independent Media Center global site, with links to over 40 local IMCs

[www.sf.indymedia.org/ftaa](http://www.sf.indymedia.org/ftaa) - San Francisco/ Bay Area IMC's FTAA feature page

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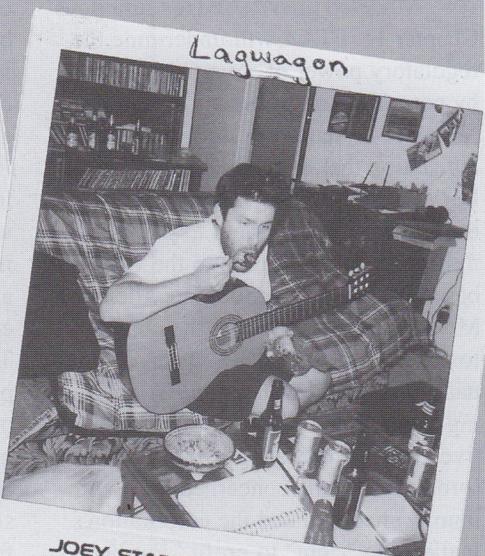


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DERRICK STOPPED DOING DRUGS...  
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AND KEPT WRITING SONGS...  
SUMMER!

# FEEDBACK!

## ANOTHER REASON TO HATE MAJOR LABELS!

Hi Richard,

Let me tell you now that Koch, or any of the labels, does not allow any MP3s without the written consent from each label. I ask for you to remove any MP3s from the website from Koch and any of its distributed labels.

Thank you,

Eric

Eric Alper

Director of Media Relations,  
Koch Canada  
Toronto

*Although, as far as I know, Koch are not affiliated with any of the big 5 majors, this is one reason why I don't support 'em. Most indie labels are cool with MP3s since we are not Napster. We're just throwing up an online radio show with some cool current music. As*

*far as I understand, the only two labels that Koch Canada carries that we work with is Sudden Death and Victory. Other than that, most labels are excited to have their stuff on our site.*

Richard

## FROM THE LAST ISSUE.

Richard- yeah thanks! I'll never mess with Gangsters and mourn the loss of the Probe...

Ken

San Francisco

## FERN LIKES TO BURN.

Richard

Just a small mention that in the last online edition of Caustic Truths a reviewer named Fern really blasted Mock Orange "The Record Play". Now, these type of reviews don't bother me personally and every Fern is entitled to her own opinion but for the sake of Caustic Truths

and your ability to represent fairly for both sides then I'd like to suggest a new review from another reviewer or keep Fern away from our records for the rest of time. Fern is the only reviewer to offer this harsh of an opinion about our artist, failing to critique an excellent production job for a record which has made many "best of" lists. It's easy to tell how many records Fern has created. Is Fern right and everyone else wrong? What good is Fern actually doing for your magazine's reputation? Anyway Richard, thanks for hearing me out. I'm sure whatever you decide is cool.

Steve

Moloch Records

*We will get someone else to review this but as they say: If can't handle the heat, get out of the kitchen.*

Richard

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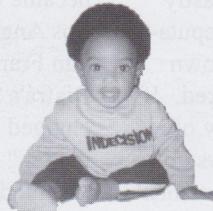
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"Baby Got Back"  
(Sir Mix-A-Lot)

SKARHEAD  
"PSK! What does it mean?"  
(Schooly D)

E-TOWN CONCRETE  
"The World Is Yours"  
(Nas)

THE MOVIELIFE  
"I Can't Do Nuttin' For Ya Man"  
(Public Enemy)

Stretch Arm Strong  
"Express Yourself"  
(NWA)



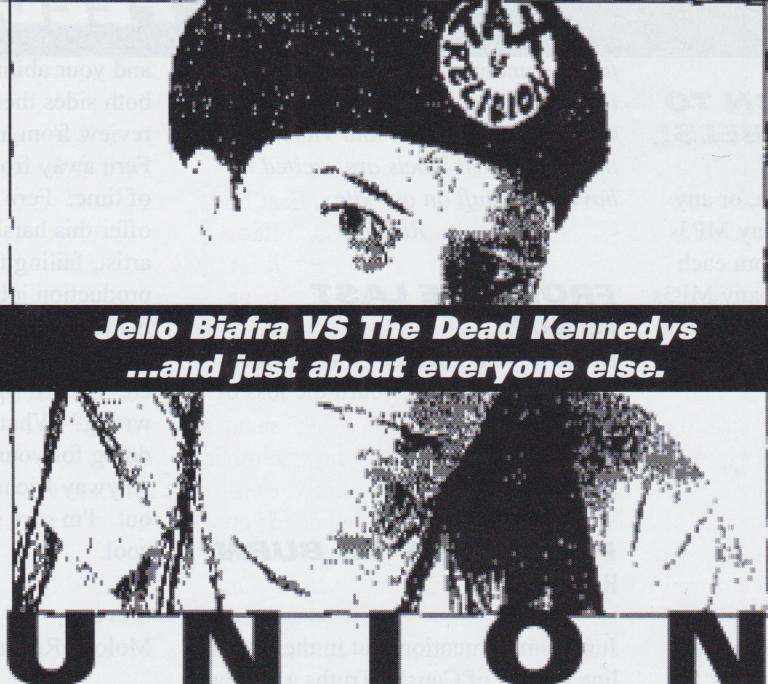
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# FORGET THE



**Jello Biafra VS The Dead Kennedys  
...and just about everyone else.**

# UNION

It can be said without doubt, that Jello Biafra is not a fan of the Clash. Nor is he a fan of his former band mates, the Dead Kennedys. And with good reason. As singer of the now defunct Kennedys, and founder of Alternative Tentacles Records, Biafra recently found himself embroiled in a lawsuit against his former band mates, East Bay Ray, Klaus Fluoride, and D.H. Peligro, in which his record label, was accused of stealing their royalties.

Recently, during a spoken word performance at Toronto's Lee's Palace, Biafra spoke out against the punk hypocrisy that he believes he has so steadfastly refused to fall victim to. "The reputation of Dead Kennedys and my own reputation are cemented and linked. If I screw up, it screws up the legacy of Dead Kennedys. If the other guys go and screw up, it screws up my personal reputation. If 'Holiday in Cambodia' wound up in a Levi's commercial, everybody would blame me. I might even get beat up again."

Has Biafra sold out? While his fans will argue that he is the last bastion of the punk rock do it yourself ethic, his detractors say otherwise. In fact in 1994, Biafra was assaulted at Berkeley's

Gilman Street Club by punk thugs who taunted him by screaming "Rich Rock Star!" The resultant damage Biafra sustained to his knee seems to have convinced him to stop touring musically. Nevertheless he has continued to make music with the likes of Ministry (a Collaboration known as "Lard), Mojo Nixon, and Canada's No Means No, and DOA. Meanwhile, his label, Alternative Tentacles, steadily pumps out Jello's own politically themed spoken-word albums - on which you will discover just how much Jello has had to endure in the past few decades.

In 1985, The Dead Kennedys suddenly became the defendants, when both the Los Angeles Police Department and the San Francisco Police Department raided Biafra's San Francisco home, and charged him with purveying "harmful matter." What the Kennedys had assumed to be just a piece of artwork in their "Frankenchrist" album - an H.R. Giger poster, entitled "Landscape #20: Where are We Coming From," - a concerned parent assumed to be something much more. And somehow her complaint quickly led to the involvement of Tipper Gore, and subsequently formal charges being laid against the Dead Kennedys. The resulting trial which took over a year, left the band in finan-

cial despair, and resulted in what was to be their final album ("Bed Time For Democracy").

Needless to say, this was not the end of Biafra's legal troubles. In 1993, Alternative Tentacles was suddenly on trial again. The "Crucifucks," a band on A.T., and no strangers to controversy themselves managed to get their hands on a promotional photograph from the Lansing (Wisconsin) Police Department. The photo which they included on the back of their "Our Will Be Done" album portrayed a dead police officer lying on the ground, with blood streaming down his back. Once again, Biafra's label was on trial accused of defamation and copyright infringement by the Philadelphia Brotherhood of Police. In April of 1997, a federal judge ordered the band to pay the Philadelphia FOP \$2.2 million. Three months later, that judgment was overturned, and the case was eventually dismissed.

Throughout the lawsuits, Dead Kennedys fans have remained steadfastly united in favour of their heroes, until now. By winning their lawsuit against Biafra and having him found guilty of shortchanging his band mates on royalties and not properly pro-

moting their groundbreaking group, the Dead Kennedys have suddenly called Biafra's credibility, and their own, into question.

And thus Biafra appeared suddenly, in Toronto, to salvage his reputation. The topic of his three and a half-hour monologue touched on everything from his recent bid for President to his debates with Tipper Gore on the Oprah Winfrey Show to his views on Napster, as well as the Columbine shootings, genetically modified "Franken-foods," the poisoning of the water in Walkerton, Ontario and the hypocrisy of punk rock, and politicians - and people in general. Most importantly however, Jello was here to defend himself: To denounce the accusation that he has long since feared that he is a big bad rockstar.

The central paradox regarding the Kennedys' lawsuit seems to revolve around Jello Biafra's assertion that he's "standing up to former members of my old band, who in case you haven't heard have sued the shit out of me, for refusing to allow 'Holiday In Cambodia' to be in a Levis-Dockers commercial." But where did this accusation come from? A Dead Kennedys song in a Levi's commercial? Is Biafra lying? While all sides agree that the band was approached with some sort of offer to use a song in a commercial, the lawyer for the prosecution claims, they "weren't down with it, and it never happened." David M. Given, a San Francisco lawyer representing Ray, Peligro, and Fluoride referred to Biafra's story as "A bunch of horse shit!"

And it seems Biafra doth protest too much. He rambled on about the Levi's incident incessantly, to an audience that probably would have believed him if he had told them he was the Messiah. "It would be the worst stab in the back I could possibly do... You know, write lyrics saying one thing, and then do the opposite... JUST.. LIKE... THE... CLASH!" He further explained how Ray, Peligro, and Fluoride "trumped up this wild lawsuit claiming that I deliberately hid all this money from them. Yes there was an accounting error, and we

found it and they were paid before the lawsuit was even filed. Funny how Mr. Peligro [Dead Kennedys drummer] didn't even mention THAT in his interview when HE was up here [on a recent 'Anti Jello Tour']."

Fending off comments from East Bay Ray (former Dead Kennedys guitarist) that he has taken too much credit for both the Dead Kennedys and Alternative Tentacles, Biafra argues: "The problem is, they've all fallen into this old bitter rocker thing, where they live in the past, and are jealous of Rancid and Green Day, and it's all my fault that they're not gentleman millionaires..." Biafra then refers to an unnamed "punk rock guitarist from a certain California punk band who drives a BMW..." One can only guess... East Bay Ray. But Ray explains "I set up [Alternative Tentacles Records] and ran it for three years... The fact that Biafra has a nice big mansion on Diamond Heights is a direct result of my efforts."

Jello has been forced to fork out \$200,000 in backpay. He is not amused. "They wouldn't settle. They took this to trial..." he complains. "The expert witness (from Grateful Dead Records of all places) claimed that I owed them damages for 'lack of promotion,' based on an axiom that if X amount more money had been spent on advertising albums that people who were going to be into this shit in the first place already know exist, than X amount more CDs automatically would have been sold, therefore I owed them half a million bucks for CDs that don't exist. HALF... A... MILLION.. BUCKS...! How punk rock we are here!" Ray, Klaus and Peligro even marched up to the stand, one by one, like little parrots, and claimed that they wrote all my songs, and that I 'snuck' the writer credits on the album BEHIND.. THEIR... BACKS.

"Amazingly," Biafra notes "the jury fell for it. So as of now, I've been hit for \$200,000 damages. They own the copyrights to MY songs... Now they've filed a motion to the judge to kick me out of the former band member partner-

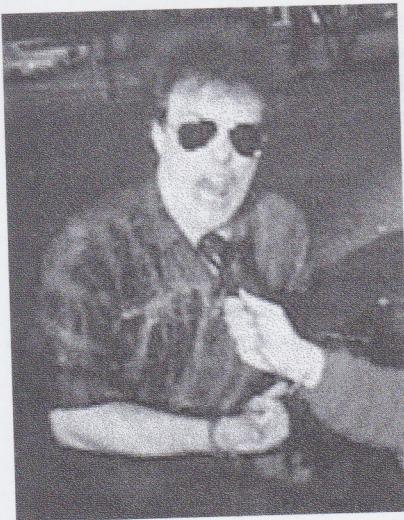
ship, so they not only can pin MY SONGS, MY FACE, MY VOICE, MY VISION any way they want to... but not have to pay me anymore!"

These days it seems there is a very fine line between making a living and "selling out." And as the dust from the lawsuit settles, Biafra and the Dead Kennedys seem to be walking that line. Well, Jello begs to differ. He denounces the "punk fundamentalist" view that "You should know when you play punk music, you shouldn't make any money at it because that's not politically correct," adding "I make no apologies for working hard enough to make a living off my work."

Like Napster, Biafra sees himself as somewhat of a cog in the corporate record machine. "The little guy," as he put it. In his trademark sarcastic wit, Biafra referred to the Napster lawsuit - in which the large corporate record companies are trying to put the "little guy" out of business: "Sony, just announced to fight all of this, they were going to make 50 songs in their catalogue of who knows how many hundreds of thousands of songs available for downloading. Probably not one single good one. And you can download off of Sony, onto an MP3 for a GENEROUS FEE of \$3.49 per song. So you're paying \$35.00 American for a CD that isn't even a real CD. Perhaps smart shoppers can do otherwise, and that's where Napster came from." But is Biafra perhaps just another jumper on the Napster bandwagon?

He admits, hesitatingly "I started out against Napster, but then Metallica went way too far with that lawsuit." Biafra also known as a rabid critic of MTV and the mediocrity of music videos states "networks like MTV are just non-stop commercials from start to finish... although Beavis and Butt-head is good," leaving fans wondering: Is this the same uncompromising punk hero who sang "MTV Get Off the Air" (Frankenchrist, 1985)?

In late 1999 Biafra suddenly emerged as a United States Presidential candidate,



You know, write lyrics  
saying one thing,  
and then do the opposite...  
**JUST.. LIKE...  
THE...CLASH!**

thanks to the New York State Green Party. But the announcement of his Candidacy was as much a surprise to him as it was to anyone else. "I was drafted by the Green Party...I didn't pencil in run for president on my calendar." Biafra, who has "been a Green Party member for years" elected not to run against Ralph Nader, whom he quite admires.

Nevertheless, the former Dead Kennedy's vocalist managed to crash both the Democratic convention and the Republican convention. He commented on the Pro-Life movement by saying "Your typical family values republican is OBSESSED with the unborn, but once they're born, fuck em!" He mocked Republicans by saying "'We don't want any of our precious property tax money going to daycare centers for those goddamn welfare cheap kids or aid to the mothers...and we're not going to give you any money for your schools either because we don't want to pay property taxes, and then once they get out of school, let's just execute them!' Right to life, right?" He refers to George Bush Jr. as "former drug czar," in reference to Bush's admitted (former) cocaine habit. Biafra points out he's "a man so bigoted that he demanded public beheadings of drug dealers.. he said he had no moral problem with that."

And Jello, a long time critic of Democrat Al Gore and his wife Tipper - ever since the Dead Kennedys were "publicly targeted by Tipper Gore and Susan

Baker" for the infamous Giger poster - compared the Democratic convention to Hitler's Nuremberg Rallies. "The Leni Reifenstahl propaganda masterpiece that all American TV seems to be based on now..." He explained how "Five thousand delegates on cue pulled out these signs saying "Tipper Rocks!" At which point, he pulled out the very same sign (which he swindled from the Convention) - from a paper bag he had been holding for quite some time. The Toronto crowd went wild. Biafra then recalled: "Those with a memory longer than the last episode of 'Survivor' will recall that Al and Tipper Gore sat in on a senate committee hearing in 1985 that called for a "rating system that warned parents if music made references to among other things, homosexuality, or suicide - even if it said 'Don't kill yourself'. He explained "[Tipper's] gift to us all is the Explicit Lyrics / Parental Advisory sticker. If you get a Tipper Sticker on one of your albums most of the major chain stores will not carry it, resulting in major labels forcing artist after artist to dumb down their albums.." Biafra proved his theory that "Tipper doesn't rock" best by pointing to his first of two meetings with Gore on the Oprah Winfrey show, when she informed him that her eldest child is " a fan of both the Clash and "...Bunny and the Echomen."

And what does Biafra think of Al Gore's running mate, Joseph Lieberman - who has also held committee hearings on "the decay of society and how it is

caused by wicked music and television"?" "He's like Tipper on crack," Biafra mused. I'm very afraid of the Lieberman/ Gore agenda." Biafra then mocked Lieberman's recent appearance on CNN's Larry King Live - where Lieberman "blamed all the high school shootings on [the video games] 'Doom,' 'Quake,' and [singer] Marilyn Manson - "What about the online day trader in Atlanta who lost his shirt and gunned down his brokers, was he driven to kill by the Wall Street Journal?"

Summing up the entire American Political system, Biafra quips "It's one party masquerading as a two party state... Republicans stand for greed, corruption, and bigotry while Democrats stand for pretending to feel guilty about greed corruption and bigotry."

With regards to Canadian politics, Jello comments on Ontario Premier Mike Harris and the fatal E-Coli water crisis by stating "Your Premier seems to be hellbent on privatization Uber Alles." And in his best Harris impression, Biafra mumbles: "Well what's a few dead people from E-Coli in the water as long as we can give away the store to my financial backers?" Asked whether he felt Harris was too right wing, he said "Right wing? He's RIGHT off the scale... he's corporate wing." Biafra suggests "we should require all politicians to plaster the logos of their corporate sponsors all over their uniforms."

Biafra's - NE: Eric Boucher- first leap into the political arena came in 1979, in

a somewhat impressive bid for Mayor of San Francisco. He received 4% of the overall vote, forcing a runoff between the top two Mayoral candidates. His platform? Well while some of his policies were quite legitimate - He lobbied for, and still supports, legalizing squatters' rights. - "he also devoted his candidacy to calling for the public auction of city positions, the establishment of a legal board of bribery, and the requirement that Financial District workers wear clown suits. And When [Mayor] Diane Feinstein called for a cleaner city, Biafra was vacuuming leaves off her front lawn the next day." [quote: INTERNET SOURCE]

Suffice it to say, the State of California was not impressed. And soon a law was passed, barring Biafra from running under a pseudonym. He could have had his name legally changed but as he explained to me, he "didn't want [Jello

Biafra] on my Driver's license... think about it." And with all the legal trouble he has faced over the years, can anyone really blame him?

Interestingly enough, it was during that very 1979 campaign for Mayor that Biafra had the misfortune of meeting the former lead singer of the Clash, Joe Strummer - whilst opening for the Clash on their American Tour. In a candid moment after the recent Toronto show Biafra - in his rather becoming lisp - summed up the lack of respect he has received ever since, by recalling what Strummer said, upon their introduction:

"Oh you're the one who's running for mayor... Uh, Chicago has a woman mayor too!"

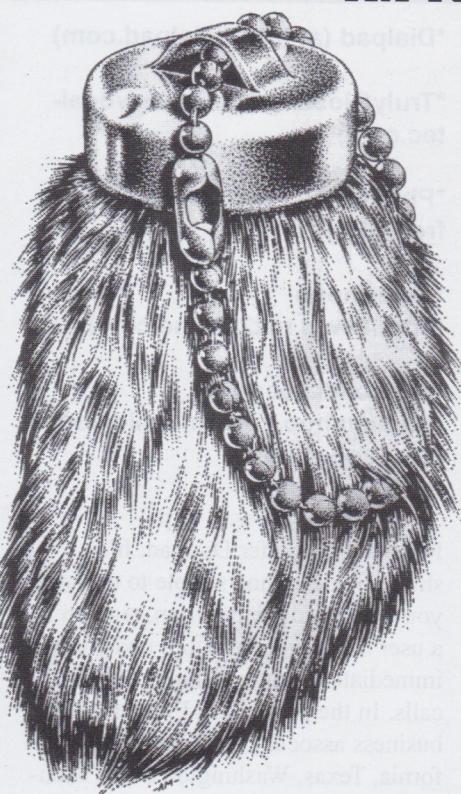
Today, despite that lack of respect, Jello's groundbreaking lyrics are the dogma of a new generation of punk

rockers - people capable of deciding for themselves whether Biafra has sold out. Whether Jello ripped his former band-mates off intentionally is indeed up for debate. But Peligro, Ray, and Fluoride are in no position to vilify him - at least, not until they donate about... \$200,000, to charity.

Biafra will perhaps best be remembered by his mayoral platform's catch phrase "there's always room for Jello." Well, hopefully there is - He is in the process of releasing his latest spoken word album "Become the Media." Yet one gets the feeling that all this legal trouble - and the recent death of Jello's sister in a mountain climbing accident - is taking its toll. Jello concedes : "Having legal shit hanging over your head, is a great way to start falling into 'Kurt Cobain I'm coming to get you' on a regular basis!".

By Daniel Jacobs

## THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO BUY YOUR NEXT RECORD. TRY YOUR LUCK, OR TRUST THE FACTS.

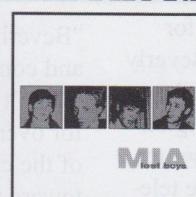


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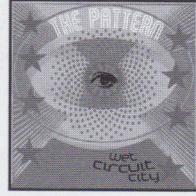


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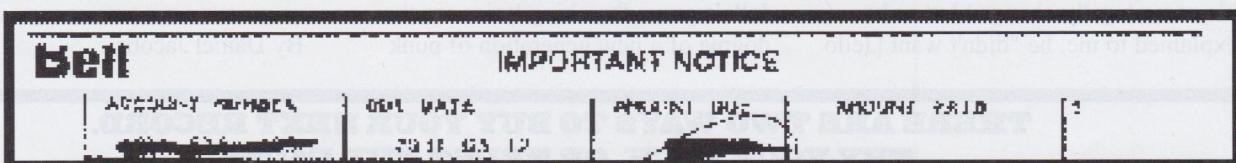
by Phil Philcox

"On an average day, I probably make a half dozen or so long distance phone calls and yesterday, I spent an hour interviewing a videographer for an article we were writing for VideoMaker magazine." That's Beverly Boe talking, Associate Editor of The National News Service in Washington and a much-published freelance writer, explaining why free long distance telephone calls fit into her life...and budget. "Last month, my telephone bill was under \$50 even though I made over a hundred long distance calls, many of them lasting for more than hour. One of our offices in California has long-distance telephone bills running into the hundreds of dollars every month, so they're switching to the Internet this week. The savings from phone calls alone pays for our cable Internet access and then some."

Beverly is one of the millions of computer owners who has discovered how to use their computer and a remote link via the Internet for computer-to-phone service anywhere in the U.S. and Canada...and it's free of charge with no gimmicks (honest!) and 100% legal. It works with Windows and Macs and is so simple my non-computer mother is

using it. When they boot up their computer, a telephone dialpad appears on screen and they dial any local or U.S./Canada number with their mouse - clicking on the numbers - or with the numeric keys of their keypad. They click on DIAL or CALL (depending on the program) and the computer speed dials the number. "Because I have cable access, none of the office telephones are tied up when I'm talking on the phone,

company will come knocking on your door and haul you off for bridging the communication gap without authorization. They're available to anyone who wants them. Features vary from very simple to somewhat complex, so choose the one that best fits your needs. Some offer both incoming and outgoing phone features. Try these:



"Beverly says, "and everything goes out and comes in via the Internet network. I haven't seen a long distance phone bill for over six months." She gives the sign of the cross with her hands and looks toward the sky. Another one of those computer miracles, she says smiling.

How does it work? Once you're on the Internet and the program is running, you enter a telephone number, you speak into your mike and your voice is digitized, the words divided into data packets and sent over the Internet to the people providing the service. They link up to the call recipient's telephone number, dial and when everything arrives at the other end, it's de-digitized and the person who receives the call hears what you have to say. When they respond, the process starts all over again. All of this takes fractions of a second.

There are several free phone call services I discovered on the Internet during my hunt for the perfect solution to not paying for long distance telephone calls. All are legal, so nobody from the phone

\*Dialpad (<http://dialpad.com>)

\*TrulyGlobal (<http://www.vocaltec.com>)

\*PhoneFree (<http://www.phone-free.com>)

\*Net2Phone (<http://www.net2phone.com>) or

\*Yahoo Messenger (<http://yahoo.com> and click on Messenger).

Personally, I prefer DialPad. It's straightforward and simple to use. After you download the program, sign on for a user name and password and you can immediately start making telephone calls. In the past week, I've talked to business associates and friends in California, Texas, Washington State, Montreal and New York while sitting in front of my computer, both hands free to shuffle through papers or stir a cup of coffee. I can store all of my frequently

called numbers in the address book they provide and speed click with a click of the mouse. My brother and I talk regularly and I'm investigating some of the overseas rates available via an Internet phone. I have friends in France and Guam and with rates starting at six cents a minute to some countries in Europe, the rates are better than the phone company's. And...I like the convenience of sitting back in my chair and chattering away in French to a friend while I'm thumbing through my French-English dictionary. All of my friends in Guam speak English, so no translation problem there.

For the technically challenged, the good news is all you need is a sound card and a microphone and chances are you got that with your computer. The bad news is that those cheap computer microphones with the flexible gooseneck you get with your computer are just not up to the job, so you might want to invest in something with a little more quality. You could try the headphone/boom mike solution and it works fine but it's not for me. I prefer having my calls coming out of the computer speakers so other people in the office can listen in. I've experimented with a variety of mikes ranging from hand-held to goose neck to lavalier, and found GN Technologies

(<http://gnnetcom.com/usa/e.va.html>) to be the best for my use. It's  
**"When you get their # number, click on your free phone program and start dialing away."**

ing. It requires no software

other than software you already use with your sound card. Plug it into your mike jack in the back and start talking away.

While you're using your computer for other jobs, the phone programs sit minimized at the bottom of your screen on the taskbar. When you're ready to make a call, click and the dialpad jumps up on the screen. Dial and you're on your way. With the full duplex feature, the connection is completely hands-free, so you or your office staff can take notes, look up records files, clean out your desk drawer or type away on the keyboard. Amazing!

For personal or business calls, you can look up numbers around the world free at Switchboard (<http://www.switchboard.com>), 555-1212 (<http://www.555-1212.com>), TelDir (<http://www.teldir.com/eng>), and other on-line telephone directories covering every corner of the globe. Many offer reverse lookup capabilities, so you can enter a personal or business company name and get a phone number or e-mail address; enter a phone number and get a name and address; enter an e-mail address and get a phone number and name. With regular telephone directories, 13% of the listings are inaccurate the day the directory hits your desk, so this is a quick and accurate way to find out who's where and how to get in touch. When you get their number, click on your free phone program and start dialing away.

What's next? The computer experts I talk to say video/phone connections at a price people like us can afford. They just have to work out the details associated with transmitting quality video over the lines that link you to the Internet, but once they do, with a small video camera sitting on top of your computer and an Internet computer-to-

computer phone connection, you'll be able to send voice and picture to any place in the world. If a customer wants to see your product or your sister wants to see your new baby girl, just hold it/her up in front of the camera. There are some limited versions already available, so check out TrulyGlobal at [http://www.trulyglobal.com/my/my\\_ind\\_ex.jsp](http://www.trulyglobal.com/my/my_ind_ex.jsp).

If you're an active long distance dialer, you can probably save enough using these programs to pay for the cost of your online connection. The convenience of hands-free operation and freeing up your phone lines makes this one of the best features of the Internet.

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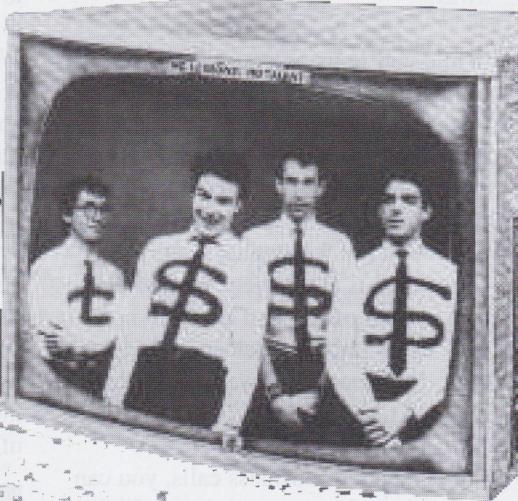
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and if any independent company wanted  
to do it in another line, say like a side  
series or something, it's all fine with us.  
I mean, I think it's a good idea to have  
something like that.

It's just that we've got to make sure  
that it's not going to affect our sales  
of the album.

It's just that we've got to make sure  
that it's not going to affect our sales  
of the album.



## ONE PLAINTIFF **East Bay Ray**

### **How was the Decay Music arrangement supposed to work?**

Everything was supposed to be shared equally however Jello does get a little bit extra for the lyrics. I can't really go into details but he does get a little bit extras share than others.

### **Was he taking a lot more than he should have over the last 10 or so years?**

He was paying some but he was underpaying us. He was paying less than he was supposed to. He was not telling us and that is where the fraud came into it. He was supposed to tell his band members.

### **Is there any criminal fraud?**

It is civil fraud but there is also malice.

### **The problem is that he yields so much power**

**by saying all this stuff to all his fans during his tours.**

If people are not gonna check out their sources,, people aren't gonna think for themselves. I don't they are punk to begin with. As people go to the spoken word and think that is the gospel truth, they're in big trouble just like I, DH, and Klaus got into big trouble. We believed in Biafra for a number of years and wrongly so we really got hurt by it. We really got betrayed by it. The other thing is that he has not admitted that he made any mistakes. If you're going to make the civilization better, you got to make your personal relationships better. But pretending to not make a mistake at all is just demeaning. Instead of admitting a mistake, he just turned to these mean-spirited attacks. It's sad in a way. Actions speak louder than words. Talk is cheap.

### **What was your initial reaction when he got attacked at the Gilman?**

It was sad that it happened. Everybody in the band and other people disapproved of violence. I was kind of surprised of what Bob Muck told me of Biafra's spoken word stuff. That again, it is shocking to me that Biafra won't

We all heard about the outcome of the famous Dead Kennedy trial. Well, we wanted to deliver both sides of the story. We got East Bay Ray and Jello Biafra explaining themselves. Plain and simple. Now you be the judge. I am personally just delivering the message so please don't shoot the messenger. I play a neutral part here.  
*By Richard Tanana*

stand up and say, "Hey people, cut that out!" I am shocked he does not do that. Bob has asked him to do that. I guessed he asked him to do that, He should say, "Hey! I may have my differences with Bob but stop making threats to him." That's not punk at all. That is like being the victim of a left wing hit squad in Guatemala. I thought that was what punks was against.

### **That sounds kind of funny.**

I won't disagree to that. But it also goes to show you can't have leaders to tell you what to do. These people have to think for themselves. They have to research things. DH, Klaus and I have been together for 20 years with Biafra. We've been putting out records together for 20 years. It's a long relationship and nobody was there except for us four. We knew what went on. We knew what went down. It is upsetting when people come thinking they know the truth. They weren't even there. Let alone, they were probably 5 years old then.

### **What is your reaction on how he has run Alternative Tentacles and he has contributed to the scene meanwhile you haven't done a whole**



**lot?**

We've done stuff, but we don't brag about it. For Alternative Tentacles, most of the money came out of everybody's pocket. The money went into promotion of other bands and the pressing of other bands came out of DH's and Klaus' pockets. They don't get up and say, "Hey! I am great! I am Mr. Punk Ayatollah!" They put their money where their mouth is. I do mixing and producing of punk band stuff. I am more behind the scenes guy. I have done consulting. I help people with contracts and signing with labels I would say I am more of a behind the scenes person. I don't get up and say I am great and wonderful. It's just not my style. I probably give more money to charity than Biafra does. I don't talk about it.

### **Moving forward, what are you guys doing with the band?**

We are permanently off of Alternative Tentacle Records. So we are looking for a new label but to put stuff out in North America. The stuff has been digitally remastered. The last time it was done was in 1988. It sounds a lot more like the original analog tapes. It is less brittle sounding. The technology is a lot more refined. We have a live CD com-

**"There was a history in how we signed contracts and how we divided the income. There was a history but we put it into writing but that is what Biafra disputed. He disputed what was all true."**

**East Bay Ray**

ing out. It is a live punk show. There are no over dubs. Biafra gets off the mike because he is moving around. People get on stage and get into us. We want to leave it that way because that is what a real punk show is like.

### **When did you start all the label courting?**

February.

### **Last month?**

Everything was officially stopped in January. Alternative Tentacles was permanently unjoined from selling or distributing Dead Kennedys except for the releases on Cherry Red. The stuff that the band controls is gonna come out on a different label.

### **How was the arrangement done with Alternative Tentacles?**

There was a partnership agreement. That came after the fact. There was a history in how we signed contracts and how we divided the income. There was a history but we put it into writing but that is what Biafra disputed. He disputed what was all true.

### **So he was kind of made a fool since you had the all documents you needed?**

Well, he doesn't think he is a fool.

### **Is he taking it through the appeals?**

He says he is. He put up a bond of \$350,000. He is going to appeal. He has until the end of March to file it. He has got 60 days. Stuff you don't want to know. The appeal courts usually don't overturn jury verdicts.

### **What about this Levi**

### **commercial stuff he is claiming?**

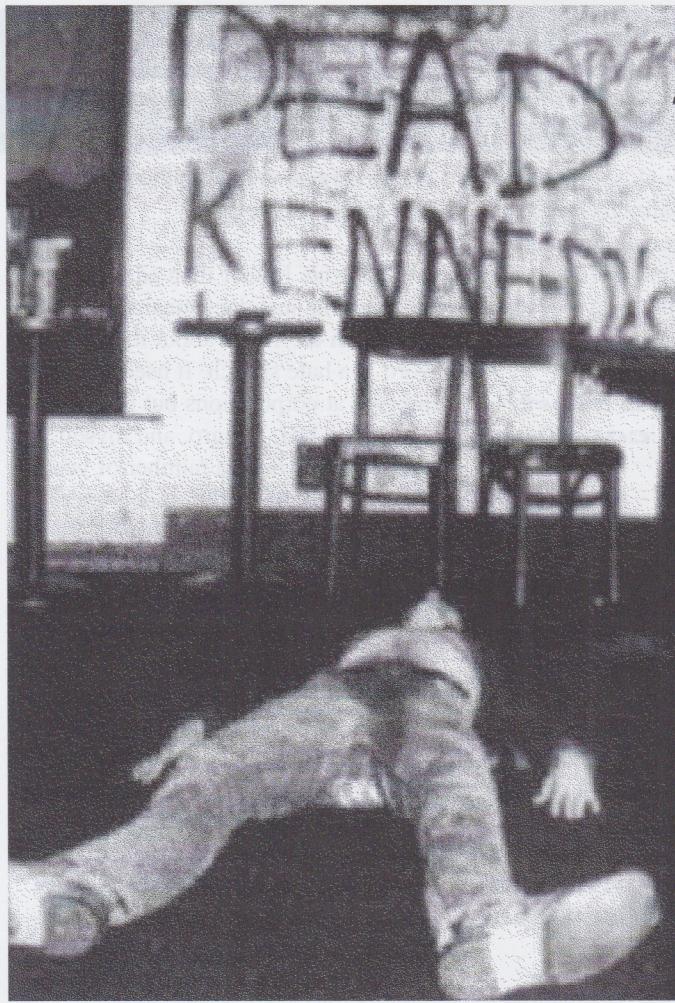
It is not true. Rather than admit his own mistakes, he just does means spirited attacks on us. Think about it, his spoken word is a hate speech. It used to be directed at corporations but now it is directed at DH, Peligro, and myself, and now Bob. It's been a number of years. There is a lot of stuff you don't see.

### **Is there a lot of things we don't see coming from your direction?**

Go to Bob's web page ([www.muckrecords.com](http://www.muckrecords.com)) and you will see our press release. There is a definition of malice there that you should print. That is what he did to us. That really is. There were 12 jurors that didn't know of either side of the story. They agreed with it and a judge agreed with it. There were three members of the band that agreed with it. There were 16 people that did this. He is out there going on about it's all Levis. He was allowed to bring this Levis thing up in trial but it was rejected as false. He is still doing it.

### **He seems to be basing it on a character assassination as opposed to hard cold facts.**

Facts are irrelevant to him as well. The bottom line is he made a mistake. He should be a man and admit it. He should move on. We should move on. This appeal is just delaying the inevitable. He did a wrong act. This appeal is not going to change that. He got at it. If somebody is working on your magazine and bought 50 magazines. But the person might have put 20 off and bought themselves lunch. They then came in and said, they only sold 40 magazines. But a week later, if they came in and said that "I kind of bullshit you and sold \$50 but here's \$20." It



**Malice** was defined for the case as "conduct which is intended to cause injury or despicable conduct which is carried with a willful and conscious disregard for the rights of others. Despicable conduct is conduct which is so vile, base, contemptible, miserable, wretched, or loathsome that it would be looked down upon and despised by ordinary decent people."

would be a little intense but still you would have a little respect for that person for coming clean. People make mistakes in their lives. People, civilisation, the punk community has got to communicate with people honestly. You have got to be humble. Somebody who doesn't make a mistake doesn't exist except Joseph Stalin or Saddam Hussein. They never make a mistake. Those are the people we're against who don't make mistakes.

### **Can you summarise this whole thing?**

It is tragic. I feel sorry for him. I know it looks silly but it might look silly in print. It didn't have to go this far. He is just not the same person as when the band started. He became a record label guy. Dead Kennedys was a band and a collaboration. He started becoming a record label guy. He started to worry more about his bottom line at his label.

He was telling us for all these years he was not making any money off the label. It turns out in the trial, we got his tax returns but he was making \$50,000 a year off it. He was telling it was non-profit. He is telling us and he's making \$50,000 a year off it. We were like, "what is with that?" He was saying it was paper deductions. He was paying taxes on it. If he is making \$50,000 on it, he is paying taxes on it.

### **Is the press eating this up and publicising this?**

No they are not.

### **Why?**

Because Biafra makes good copy. You turn him on, he does your interview for you. A lot of people have an interest in having a punk pope. Until they find somebody new, they will try and prop

him up. I have noticed over the months, there are less journalists buying his hook and sinker. When journalists talk to him, he is a very persuasive talker. He does kind of make sense if you don't look at the inconsistencies. Obviously, with the title Caustic Truths, you're used to meeting between the lines. But wait minute, some of this stuff doesn't fit. Most music journalists don't do that.

### **They get bought into the advertising.**

Exactly. Then the journalists say they're sell outs. They quote Biafra calling us the sell outs meanwhile they are hooked into his party line because Alternative Tentacles is buying an ad in their magazine.

### **It's a shame a lot of media types don't look at both sides of**

## **the story.**

That is all we ask people to do. That is what the trial was. It was not he-she said any more. We both had good attorneys and we spent a lot of money. Well they said, Biafra: your story is false but these three guys story is true.

It's not the size of the record label. This is a paraphrase from Martin Luther King, it's the content of their character. Like I said, I have worked with plenty of small labels that will rip you off. Matter of fact, a little label will you rip you off faster than a big label will. A big label will get you in the contract negotiation. They will give you bad deal but at least they will honour it. It might be a bad deal, bad promotion, but you know what you're getting. A smaller label will tell you one thing but tell you another thing. Big labels will do that now and then but they have so many

people like bookkeepers, receptionists, so many people that it is kind of hard to do an outright fraud.

## **DEFENDENT**

### **Jello Biafra**

***First, you said the jury is factually incorrect. What do you think they failed to realize in the result of the case?***

That would take an hour an answer. They basically disregarded their own jury instructions. They went on which side was selling snake oil. I didn't steal any money from anybody. All the money that Ray wanted was paid to him before the lawsuit was even filed. The real motive was and is the refusal to be

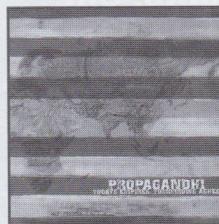
in a Levi's commercial. The entire accounting discrepancy and, yes, there was human error which we fixed and was paid out amongst us. We just tried to get to the bottom of this. As soon as I didn't do the Levi's commercial, they went running to a corporate lawyer.

***What about this "Holiday In Cambodia" Levi's commercial which they claim they have no knowledge of? What is your take on it?***

That is an outright lie. Klaus called two of my closest friends urging them to pressure me to do the commercial. Ray himself tried to bully me into doing it. He told me if I didn't do it, there were going to be repercussions. Sure enough there were. Later I asked Klaus, I was trying to understand why on earth he would be so complete and had callous disregard for everything our band meant

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to people all over the world all these years. And shoved me front and center to catch all the bullets and spears, he said, 'well why don't you go to the press and tell them that we were going to give the money to charity and giving 5% to charity and keeping the rest?' That was what he wanted to do. I was physically ill at that point just listening to that. I couldn't believe what was coming out of his mouth.

***Obviously from your press release, they have voting power. If they put out something you don't agree with, could you challenge them in court? Is this the case?***

It is not going to matter. That partnership is about to dissolve by the orders of the judge. It is too dysfunctional to go on so any deal behind my back will probably be torpedoed in less than a year. If I even win the appeal, then on the other side they will be even in more trouble. On top of that, there is no voting going on. They're just going to do what they're going to do and Ray refuses to tell me what is going on. Plus he refuses to pay me. I asked him to justify

**"Later I asked Klaus, I was trying to understand why on earth he would be so complete and had callous disregard for everything our band meant to people all over the world all these years."**

**Jello Biafra**

why everybody else is getting paid in some vague excuse for accounting, everything owed to me was cut to below zero by unforeseen expenses. All he sent back were four more invoices with all the names blacked out with magic marker. It was like John Lennon's FBI file or something. They're not running things honestly in the least.

***I am quite surprised.***

I am not surprised at all because of the whole pattern of conduct we uncovered during this lawsuit, Ray has been skimming large amounts of money for years and years. He is calling them commissions now but he specifically told me he wouldn't take stuff like that from us. He gave me his word of honor and he persistently broke it.

***According to your press release, I was blown away with the fact they are charging you for the artwork of some video they are putting out?***

No, they are charging me for the artwork for this crappy live album they put out. I completely disavow and cannot recommend anybody buy it.

***How is this being handled? Is it on a label?***

At the moment, it is being done through a British distributor called Plastichead. Earlier they gave me their word of honor that they were not going to do such a thing. You know they were Alternative Tentacles' exclusive distributor for Britain. They said no they weren't going to touch anything like this unless

I was cool with it while simultaneously doing backdoor negotiations with Ray. I feel very deeply betrayed and stabbed in the back by them. I should have never have trusted them.

***Where are you with the appeals?***

That should be pretty clear from the press release. We filed the appeal. There is another 3 month period of big phone book legal briefs flying back and forth. Then the oral arguments are heard. None of this should have happened in the first place. If everybody involved acted like adults, none of this would ever have happened. But somebody on the other side got greedy.

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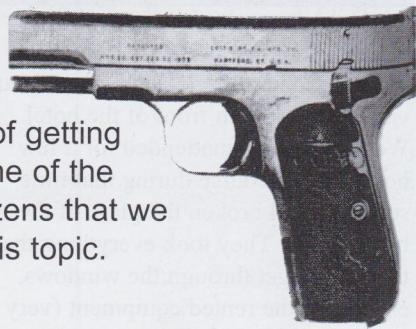
# SOB STORIES OF TOURING BANDS

## DIANOGAH

Hey, I have made a few attempts to send you mail from Europe (where Dianogah is presently touring. In fact, I spent about an hour & a half writing to you from Verona, Italy when the power went out. I will try and sum up a somewhat grandiose story in a few short sentences as I know you have a deadline, & it may even possibly be too late. Plus, today is my birthday, & I think I would rather spend it checking out Barcelona as opposed to sitting in front of a computer. About a year ago, Dianogah had our van broken into in a neighborhood in Chicago. A brand new Slingerland drumset (which I had owned for approx. six months) was taken along with every piece of hardware, cymbals...etc. In short everything I OWNED drumwise.

After much fretting, and arguing with the Chicago Police Dept (who told us that the only way they would print our van was if a gun was stolen or my last name was Daley) I spent about a week calling pawn shops and the like. This was of no success...and after about a week I was ready to give up. I decided, however, to print

We have collected a number of band stories who have been ripped off during their tours and label experiences. Even labels informed us about their ventures of getting ripped off by bands. Here are some of the more interesting stories out of dozens that we received during the research of this topic.



up about 150 flyers describing the set in detail, and offering a one thousand-dollar reward, no questions asked no charges pressed. I went to the area in which they had been stolen and out them up on cars with a notice that, at the very least, people who were parking on this street should be careful. As I was handing out flyers I saw a man reading one of them. I approached him one. Later, I was driving away, and a group of younger people was milling about in front of the apartment building where the van had been parked. I remember mentioning to my girlfriend Maggie that one of these kids looked like he could have been the culprit. Wearing a suit that looked far more expensive than the clothes his friends were wearing.

Later that week I was shopping for a new drumset. I went to Musicians Net-

work on Clark. After unsuccessfully bargaining with one of the employees, I left the info. about my stolen kit & went home. As I walked in the door my phone was ringing. It was the guy I had spoken with at Musicians Network. He asked me what my cymbals looked like. I promptly described them & he told me to get there as soon as possible.

I Starski & Hatched my way over there in an incredibly reckless manner, hoping that a cop would pull me over so I could explain. Well, when I arrived there were already like 8 cop cars there & upon entering found two men chained together at the back of the store. Can you believe it, THE GUY I HANDED THE FLYER TO, AND THE GUY I POINTED OUT TO Maggie (my girlfriend). As it turned out, the guy I gave the flyer to could have pocketed a thousand bucks from me no questions asked.

Instead, both of them were fined a lousy \$75 for possession of stolen or mislaid property. This had more to do with the police not printing than anything else. Yes, I got everything back & yes I do realize how lucky I am. I am not just lucky because I had everything returned to me, but because when people found out about my misfortune (before I had gotten everything back) a number of people made offers that were far too generous. John Herndon, a guy I barely knew dropped an absurd amount of money off a kit he was trying to sell. Likewise, Bruce (owner of the Empty Bottle) offered to do a benefit for me.

-Kip



## ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN

We had our van broken into while we were on tour in Europe in 1999. We were in Copenhagen, Denmark and our van was parked in front of the hotel. We left the van unattended for a few hours and of course during that time someone had broken the glass of the back doors. They took everything that they could get through the windows, except for the rented equipment (very fishy). We were parked across the street from a park and one of us had heard a story about this happening to someone in NYC and that they had found their material in a nearby park. So, he looked through the bushes nearby and actually tripped over some of our missing equipment! We searched the whole park and found everything that was missing hidden in the bushes, all over the park. We found all of it except for three things: Our bass guitar, our singer's bag of clothes, and a bag of rare books and magazines that I had been collecting while on tour. But, we got back all of our other guitars, amps, clothes, etc. It was very strange and I would like to smash the face of the people that did it, but I am very glad they were dumb enough to hide it nearby. I think they were in league with our foreign drivers.

Sal - Electric Frankenstein

## THE DILS

HOLLYWOOD RIPOFF...we were playing a show in Hollywood in 1977 and afterwards parked our van outside of our friend Peter Urbans's house on Argyle Street....being somewhat innocent and not a little bit lazy we left all of our gear inside the van, not willing to drag it inside and up the stairs. The next morning after coffee we headed to our van (the "I hate the richmobile") and noticed the side door was wide open! Looking inside we realized that all the gear was gone...we called the police, filed a report and limped back to San Francisco. On our next trip to LA we went to Freedom Guitar on Sunset Blvd. and saw Tony's thunderbird bass hanging on the wall!!!! Tony pulled it

down and said it was his and he wanted it back. The shop owner said "go fuck yourself". When an immovable object meets an irresistible force there is only one thing to do...flag down a cop! We did and the officer looked at the bass and saw that the serial number had been scraped off, rather crudely. So he barked at the owner 'GIVE THE BOY HIS BASS!'...which he did and the rest is punk rock history. By the way I never found my guitar...if anyone ever sees an ampeg dan armstrong with the serial # a2205d it's MINE..

-Chip Kinman.

## UNEARTH

Getting ripped off on tour feels like getting hit in the stomach with a sledgehammer. This happened to the band I sing for, Unearth (Eulogy Recordings).

Our first full East Coast tour was going extremely well in early January 2001, but once we reached Davie, Florida everything took a turn for the worse.

After playing the best show on the tour, the Eulogy Fest in Davie, FL, we got off stage and walked out to our van to find the side window smashed and the doors unlocked. After a quick look inside the van we noticed the car stereo, cd walkman, bags, sneakers, clothes and cd's were missing.

Blood was splattered in the van from the assailant breaking the glass with his hand.

We called the cops to report the robbery and a neighborhood kid came up to us and told us who did it. He pointed out the apartment the guy came from and we told the cops that very story.

Sure enough most of our stuff was sitting in this guy's apartment. We did get most of it back, but we are still missing some clothes, shoes and small appliances.

The kicker is, that Jack-Ass has AIDS. The police told us to put on rubber gloves and wash down the entire van, interior and exterior, with bleach.

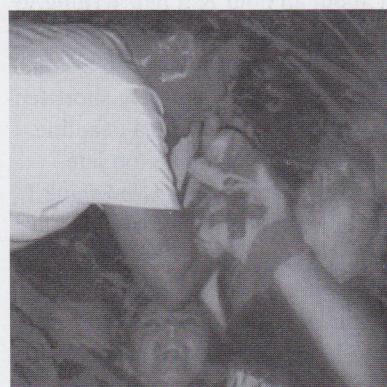
When breaking in he broke the window with his hand and cut himself, this caused him to bleed in our vehicle, clothes and cd's. We had to thoroughly wash the vehicle and clothes, but we let him keep the cd's.

What an ass! No respect for human

life apparently. The least he could have done was break the window with a rock or something.

The break in felt as if we had been hit in the stomach with a sledge hammer, but when we found out he had AIDS it was like the sledge hammer had missed its intended target and hit about six inches below.

We ended up having to skip the next day's show in Atlanta, before making the trek up to Virginia for a show and then back home to Boston. It was a mess. We got pulled over a couple times for having a carboard window. The cops all thought we stole the vehicle!



Now our van is equipped with an alarm system and a new window. You just can't trust anyone!

## THE KREWMEN

Back in 1997/8 a Dutch person who runs record labels/distribution and shops in the Netherlands and Germany, 'Stole THE KREWMEN'S first 6 Albums! He put the 6 Albums onto 3 double CD's and then started to sell them around the World. The idiot even tried to get some of the band's regular Distributors to buy the CD's. In fact, some 'Fucking Distributors' even knowing the Albums to be stolen did buy some. The reason for calling him an idiot, is because he must have known there was no way he could get away with this theft. For he has known and worked with THE KREWMEN as a booker/promoter and distributor for over 15 years and knew, they would not take this lying down!

We only wish we could Splatter his Fucking Name all over the place! However, because the Copyright & Custom

people have taken up the case, we are not allowed to name him until they have brought him to court. Once this has happened, we will make sure every contact we have around the World (mags. - zines - websites - record labels/distributors and musician) know his name. For if he thought he could get away with it with a band who have been around as long as THE KREWMEN have, what chance would a new band have? All we can say at this moment, he is well known in Europe for his illegal dealings and this is not the first time he has been convicted for 'Pirating'.

At the same time this Pirating came to light, The Krewmen also found out a guy who was a member of the band for 6 months back in 1985, when The Krewmen were a Rockabilly/Blues band. Also fucking stole some of their old recordings and put them onto one of his CD's. In addition, he used a copyrighted Photo of the band on the CD. He must be desperate, for two of the recordings were of the band messing about in Tony's bedroom; they were so bloody bad recordings, the band did want their name associated with them. Three of the other recordings he stole were released by a couple of European record labels back in 1985/6.

This person's name is 'Carl Sonny Leyland' and he moved to the USA in 1988. He has been informed, that as soon as he steps a foot back into the UK one of the record labels and The Krewmen will be hitting him with legal action!

This theft hit us harder than the Dutch Bastards did, because we regarded Carl Sonny Leyland as long-standing friend!

-Reg

### POLLEN

In the summer of 1995 we had just picked up and moved our barely post-collegiate asses to Arizona, leaving our hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. Our second record, Crescent, had just been

released by micro-indie label Grass Records. We got to Phoenix broke but hopeful; Crescent's predecessor, Bluette, had sold respectably (note that "respectable" is an extremely relative term: I'm pretty sure there were more reviews in obscure 'zines than actual sales), and we were excited to see how our sophomore effort could do. Except that it couldn't, because Crescent was out of print (according to Grass's faulty computers) immediately after its release. It was also reviewed quite a bit (favorably, I might add), but distributed



to stores, well, not at all. The two over-worked label employees (Grass had a roster of nearly 40 bands by the nearest count) had no idea until far too late, and somehow the problem was never corrected. Grass certainly promised to correct it, but never did. Crescent remains our lost release, like the Beach Boys, Smile (only without so much genius). We were just as hopeful several months later when Grass was bought by some guy who had (and probably still has) a lot of money. Our eyes twinkled with anticipation of fat recording budgets and big-time distribution that such an influx of cash would bring. Not to mention a large staff who would undoubtedly pay careful attention to our burgeoning career. The label moved its base of operations from Long Island to Manhattan (into some cool office like the one on Ally McBeal, no doubt), and an entirely new staff was hired. They even set up an in-house booking agent to handle the huge tour we would under-

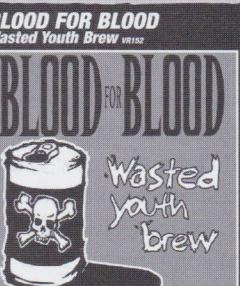
take in support of our third release (our first on newly christened not-so-micro indie Wind-Up Records), Peach Tree. A tour of the West Coast was booked, and although our label's newfound cash flow didn't net us a new van to replace our creaking, smoke belching Econoline, we set out for California. Surely our new and shiny record label hired competent, capable people to take care of us... surely this tour would be legendary and would guarantee our success culminating in our presence on that TV show with Matt Pinfield. Rock stardom was almost in our grasp! Except that it wasn't. Our label's in-house booking agent had farmed out her work to some mysterious dude in California, promising to book his band some shows on the East Coast. Only he didn't, and she didn't bother to check up on him until too late. So she sent us on tour with a list of a bunch of clubs, names next to some arbitrary dates. We got lots of fun responses from the inevitably helpful club owners when we arrived and asked where to load our gear. Some gems: "Pollen? Never heard of you.;" "Pollen? Yeah! You're playing here next month.;" and my particular favorite: "We haven't had live music here for three years, just DJ's. Tonight is retro-go-th-funk-metal night." After every one of these ego-pulverizing encounters, our growing rage was met with apologies and increasingly lame excuses from the agent. But we played on regardless, beguiled by her promises that she had just talked to the owner of the club we were playing the next day and that show was on for sure. Eventually we got wise and called five or six clubs down the road. When every one of them assured us that we were not booked there, not the 4th of September, not the 5th or 6th, indeed not ever, we tucked our tails firmly between our legs and limped back across the desert to Phoenix in abject defeat. This chapter of Pollen history has been named THE NEGA-TOUR. It lives on in photographs and infamy.

-Mike Bennett

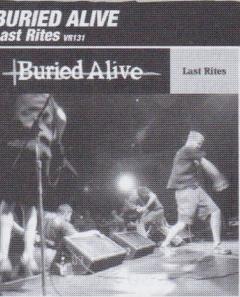
### DYNEOMIGHT

Here's a story for you about being ripped off by another band. This story

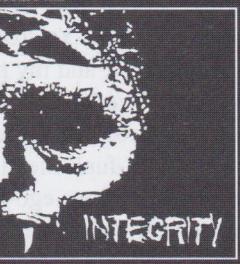
# VICTORY RECORDS NEW RELEASES



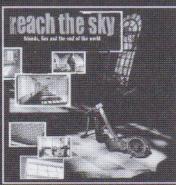
'....some of the fiercest hardcore this side of a high security jail.' -KERRANG KKKK



'Imagine experiencing a plane crash, being rushed to the hospital, and then getting into a head-on collision with a runaway train carrying nuclear weapons.' -ROCKPILE



'If and when Slayer ultimately has to pass the torch, it will undoubtedly be to Integrity.' -INSTANT MAG



**REACH THE SKY** OUT NOW  
Friends, Lies, And  
The End Of The World VR138



**WATERDOWN**  
Never Kill The Boy  
On The First Date VR151



**CATCH 22** OUT NOW  
Alone In A Crowd VR122



**THURSDAY** OUT NOW  
Full Collapse VR145

.....distributed by Koch.....

is courtesy of our band DYNEOMIGHT from Larry Flynt, Michigan.

When the five of us were learning to play our instruments in the shacks of Larry Flynt, Michigan, we decided that rock and rock music was the thing to do. We could get chicks, fuck and fight all the time and get drunk on Grandpa Cobber's homebrew of Chicken Whiskey. Rock music was enough reason for a gang of 5 degenerates living in the woods to form a band called DYNEOMIGHT. The story begins one time when Angry Fred's favorite band, The Cult was playing in Detroit and we all decided to go to the show.

We get to the show and it's rockin, sluts all around and The Cult are awesome, of course. Then out of the fuckin blue we hear, dah-dah-da-da-dah, the notes of OUR FUKKIN SONG. We all look at each other through our chicken whiskey stained eyes in disbelief. How much can we do about it though? We're in the fuckin stands and they're STILL playing our song and people are loving it and cheering.

Like any other kids, we naturally told

our dad's. Then we're playing a song that we had written when Angry Fred was 8 years old called King CONtrary Man, a song about a criminal who makes a deal with the devil for his soul. Those goofs ended up putting it on some record called Electric.

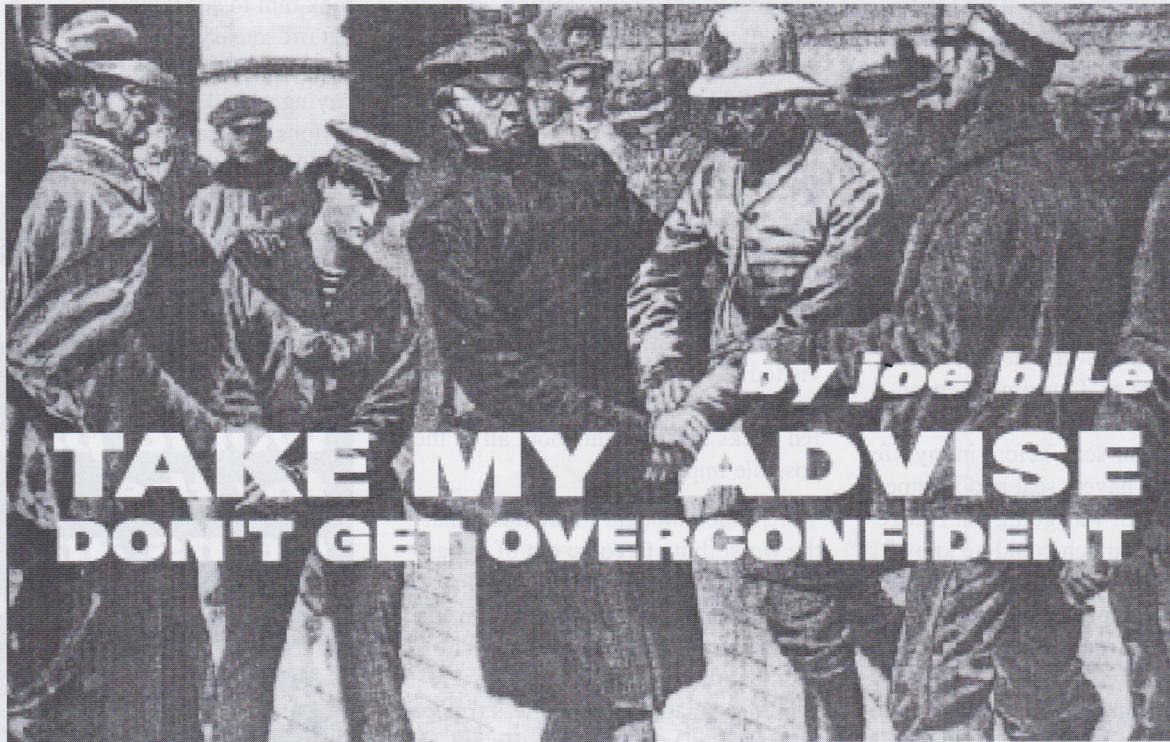
Naturally our fathers went down to their next show in Canada and kicked the shit out of them after the show. Ya see, that's what Dad's are supposed to do, so what if they spent the weekend in jail. The fact is that they were defending DYNEOMIGHT and their sons while The Cult was making money off of OUR FUKKIN MUSIC.

To this day we still play OUR SONG, King CONtrary Man, LIVE. DYNEOMIGHT still rocks the asses of all those that hear OUR SONG. AH, ROCK

DYNEOMIGHT

Angry Fred  
www.dyneomight.com





By Joe bILe

## TAKE MY ADVISE DON'T GET OVERCONFIDENT

Everyone's had his or her little run-ins with shoplifting. Some people are more familiar with retail security than they'd like to be. It also seems like everyone has a story to tell about the situation. Well, here's mine. I was getting pretty bored of my job delivering pizzas after working there for over 2 years so I talked to some of my friends who worked at this discount retail store and they all seemed to really enjoy their job. In reality, I later found out, they just thought it would be more fun to have me work with them as the only good thing about their job was having each other around to reduce the agony. I decided to cut back my hours and start working with them as a second job. It was really fun at first. I enjoyed being around my friends and having work conversations when we hung out instead of the normal blather. The job perks were excellent - it seemed that the only cameras in the entire store were in the beer and wine section or pointed on the registers. Now, our store was huge. It was easily the size of most grocery stores and there was only one manager on shift at a time. We also had a figure-head who managed the cashiers but most of them were friends of mine anyway. I had stolen a few things before I

had worked there but now it just seemed like the possibilities were endless. They had camera batteries - which I later learned to steal in bulk and trade for Kinko's cards. They had tapes for my camcorder which came in handy and I still have about a dozen left several years later. We stole new telephones, a hair trimmer kit, a new watch, new ballpoint pens, candy, tape, glue, phone cords, cases (50 cartons) of cigarettes, beer (as much as 20 cases at a time), liquor, cologne, blank tapes, stereos, walkmans, a discman, and everything else we could walk out with or haul out the back door. In fact, after awhile we got so carried away that we just stole because we could and there was no one to stop us. After a few months I think we stole because we had nothing better to do and were just so used to taking whatever we wanted or needed that we had to do that to entertain ourselves through a day of work. I first started to consider it a bit unhealthy when we would have shoplifting contests and the winner would have stolen something like \$650 worth of merchandise. Now, not only is that finesse but that's knowing how to shop. I came close to winning one time some people would steal things they

didn't want just so they could win. Of course, at the end of every great dynasty comes the tragic part and ours was no exception. When I really wanted something or another I would make a special trip to get it even when I wasn't working (since I only worked two days a week anyway). On my way to my night classes I would drop in to pick up some snacks or batteries or some Jack Daniel's wine coolers for between classes (this easy shoplifting routine was also pretty responsible for my drinking problem that ended my college career; or you could look at the converse and say that my drinking problem created this frequent shoplifting habit). I think this was what really began the downfall of our empire. On the fateful day I was coming into work for my usual Sunday morning shift. It was no big deal. I rolled out of bed, rode my bike to work, and sat around for a few hours in the break room. Well, on this day, things were a little funny. I guess we had this policy that we were supposed to report to the office for an assignment when we first would show up to work. I never really did that, preferring to mingle with my co-workers and find out who fucked who over the weekend or

whatever inane stuff they were talking about in the break room. It was there that many loves were started and finished. After being at work for a few hours I realized neither the day manager nor the evening manager were giving me an assignment. They said my name wasn't on the list for the schedule. That was odd. I was certainly supposed to work. They told me to go to the office. I thought this was odd so I talked to my friends first and most of them seemed to shrug it off since everyone else does it everyday anyway. I eventually meandered over to the office and there sat a man I had never seen before in my life. He told me to have a seat and I immediately knew what was going on. I froze with fear. How much could he know? Was this the end of my life? He pulled out some empty packages from his desk. One was from some headphones I had stolen a few days prior. The other was from shaving cream which I didn't use anyway so I wasn't sure how that tied into the puzzle. He informed me that he had me on camera looking "suspicious" in the corner where the packages were found.

I had a flashback to the last time I was caught shoplifting when I was fourteen years old in the bookstore. I had gotten away with a slap on the wrist that time. Why couldn't I do it again? I tried to remember what I was supposed to do in this situation and tried to say as little as possible. He continued, saying that I was the chief suspect in their theft and that the total of the items came to about \$5. I told him that I was really embarrassed and would pay for the items. He was quick to tell me that of course I would pay for the items and I would also pay a \$50 "fee" for having stolen them. I stared at him blankly, frozen in fear and I still didn't know if I had admitted guilt or if I still had a chance of saving myself. I pulled out my wallet and handed him over the money. He then pulled out a clipboard and told me that it was an admittance of guilt and it would mean that we would not involve the police, that this payment would forever settle the issue. Well, it would only cost me this payment, my job, and one year of being banned from all properties owned by the company.

Of course, he didn't even tell me that I was feared until I was getting up to leave the office. The whole conversation was so mild that I honestly thought I still did have my job. I suppose more things were implied by what was said. He then went on to tell me that the store was suspecting me in many other items that were stolen in the last

few months. I smirked a bit as I walked out to get my belongings. I really enjoyed the rest of that day. I went and visited a lot of my other friends at work and rode my bike to the park where I fed ducks and thought about all of the possible implications.

After much thought I concluded that the worst thing to come out of it was just how much dependence I had attached to getting everything I needed for free. I also realized there was no way that the story that our "Loss Prevention Manager" told me was true. There were far too many holes in it. Since I was not working at the time of stealing the headphones, I was dressed in my plain clothes and there was no way for him to know that I was even an employee. There is no camera on that side of the store. I had several people double check that for me later that week. He never offered to show me

any videotape sequence because none exists. He knew that he could scare me into confessing by just being quick and blunt about the whole thing. Fear is a tool that scares most people out of shoplifting; why wouldn't it work on those who are caught?

A few months later my friend Jen got called into the same office to have a visit with the same man. They said they had her on camera with a mysterious bulge in her coat as she left work one day. They somehow knew way too much about even what brand of cigarettes she had stolen. A few weeks later a commission check was hanging in the cash office for a man named Scott. Ironically, it was the same amount of money that an employee receives for catching a fellow employee for shoplifting. A few months later still, our friend Jason was making his way into work where several police officers were waiting for him.

They immediately handcuffed him and took him to see the judge. Jason, didn't get off so easy like the rest of us. He ended up spending 5 days in jail and paying a \$90 fine for stealing 2 cartons of cigarettes. Of course most people took the opportunity to make fun

***He was  
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pay a \$50  
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having  
stolen them.***

of his misfortune when he most needed sympathy. Most of our other co-workers were under 18 so they were simply shown the door when they were caught shoplifting but you can be sure that everyone who was an adult was arrested after that fateful day where an "example" was made of Jason.

To the best of our knowledge, the story goes like this. One of the many newer employees was a guy named Scott who started working in the warehouse around us. I never gave him much thought except he seemed to be too loyal for minimum wage. You see, Scott had this grand plan that by turning in dirty employees he could quickly get promoted into management. It sounds like something out of a movie but to Scott it was his career plan. Well, I don't think Scott ever made it into management but he did make quite a few enemies. Once most people fingered him as the culprit they transferred him to a different store where he would be safer and more likely to be able to catch more dirty employees. Ahh, the

company was wise to utilize Scott so well. I'm sure he'll be rotting in a very special place in hell. I remember several times where I was doing something other than working and Scott would look at me a little too intently. I didn't worry about him too much because no one was really loyal to anyone except each other (until Scott came along anyway).

What I believe to have happened was that he saw me in a position of standing somewhere, fidgeting with something, and then came back to check it out later. He found empty packages and came to a logical conclusion. We believe he watched Jen steal the cigarettes and then reported it to our manager. With Jason, we believe it was the legacy that was told and retold among employees that he would steal a carton of cigarettes or more everyday and Scott knew it was a safe bet to report having actually seen said incident occur. You'll be happy to know that in the last few years, I've returned to the store a few times and been sure to steal a few things each trip. I did learn quite a few things from this experience though and I'll be happy to

share them with you.

**1** Don't steal in excess. I know people that have stolen from the same store for years and never have been caught because they only do so when necessary or for a specific premeditated item.

**2** Don't trust your co-workers or better yet, if you can afford to, get a job for a short period of time to understand their security and then quit. You are much safer when you are a random customer than as an employee (who are responsible for most theft).

**3** Never steal from mom and pop stores. Show your disdain for corporate society by only stealing from chain stores.

**4** If you are feeling hesitant and acting in a group, it works to have a friend or two act as a diversion by doing shady things and generally making it apparent that they are shoplifting without actually stealing anything.

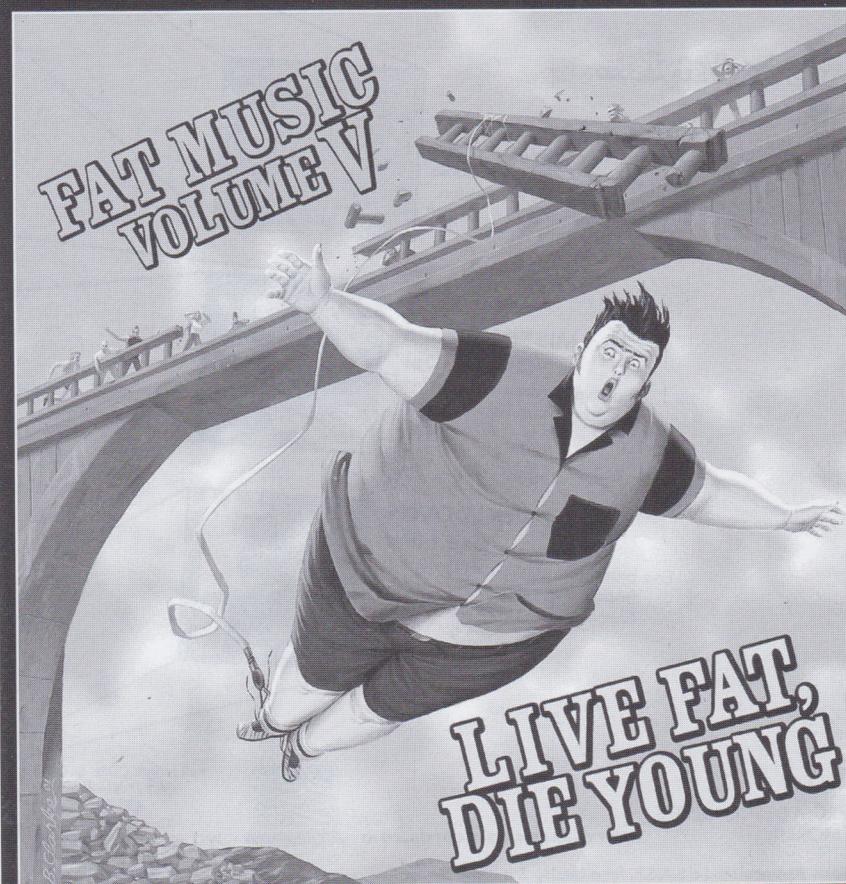
**5** Most stores have some kind of security tags which are normally obvious. Really slick stores will have obvious tags and hidden tags (predominantly music stores). Be sure to take a close

look before you walk out that door.

**6** Kinko's is really easy to steal office supplies from and most of the employees wouldn't care anyway. Staplers, envelopes, scissors, glue, tape, pens, and if you've got someone on the inside - postage!

**7** Check out the zine EVASION - TRAVEL CRIME by Chris Robinson. It's 108 full size pages about ways to live for free, especially shoplifting. Available for \$5 ppd from us.

Take care and send me your shoplifting success stories. Joe Biel / Po Box 14332 / Portland, OR 97293-0332 / joebiel@ureach.com. For 1200+ stickers, buttons, zines, books, t-shirts, and records visit [www.microcosmpublishing.com](http://www.microcosmpublishing.com) or send \$1.



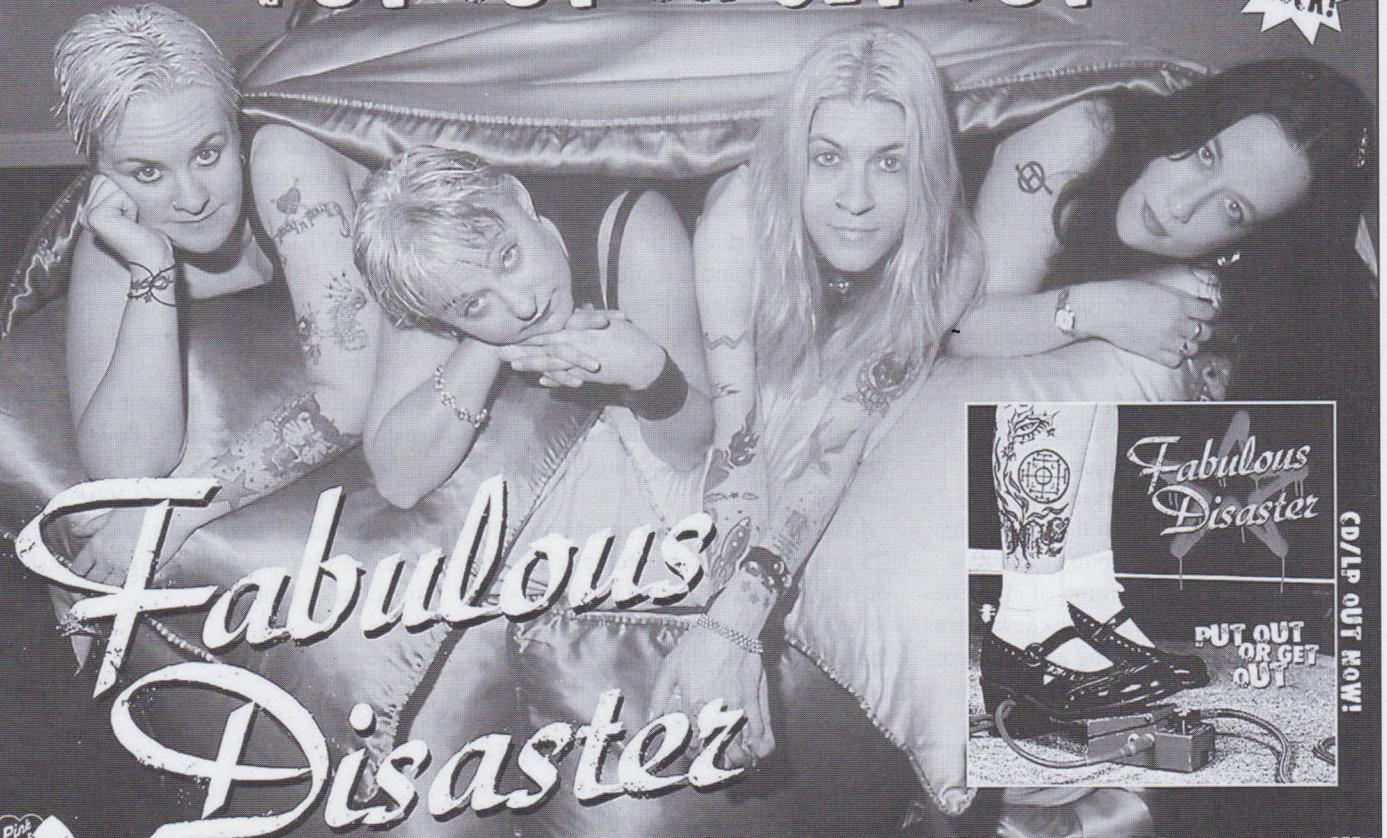
## COULD BE OUR BEST COMP YET! **20 New Unreleased Totally Bitchin' Songs...\***

\*certain tracks may be bogus

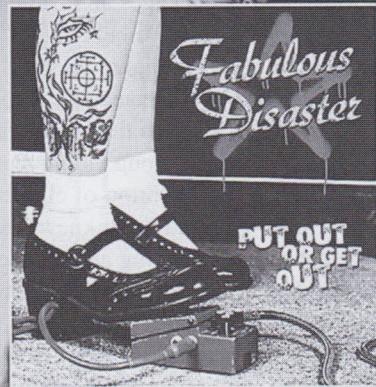
**ZERO DOWN  
NO USE FOR A NAME  
ANTI-FLAG  
GOOD RIDDANCE  
FABULOUS DISASTER  
SICK OF IT ALL  
MAD CADDIES  
STRUNG OUT  
CONSUMED  
FRENZAL RHOMB  
NOFX  
RISE AGAINST  
LAGWAGON  
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April 24 - Sudbury, On  
April 25 - Collingwood, On  
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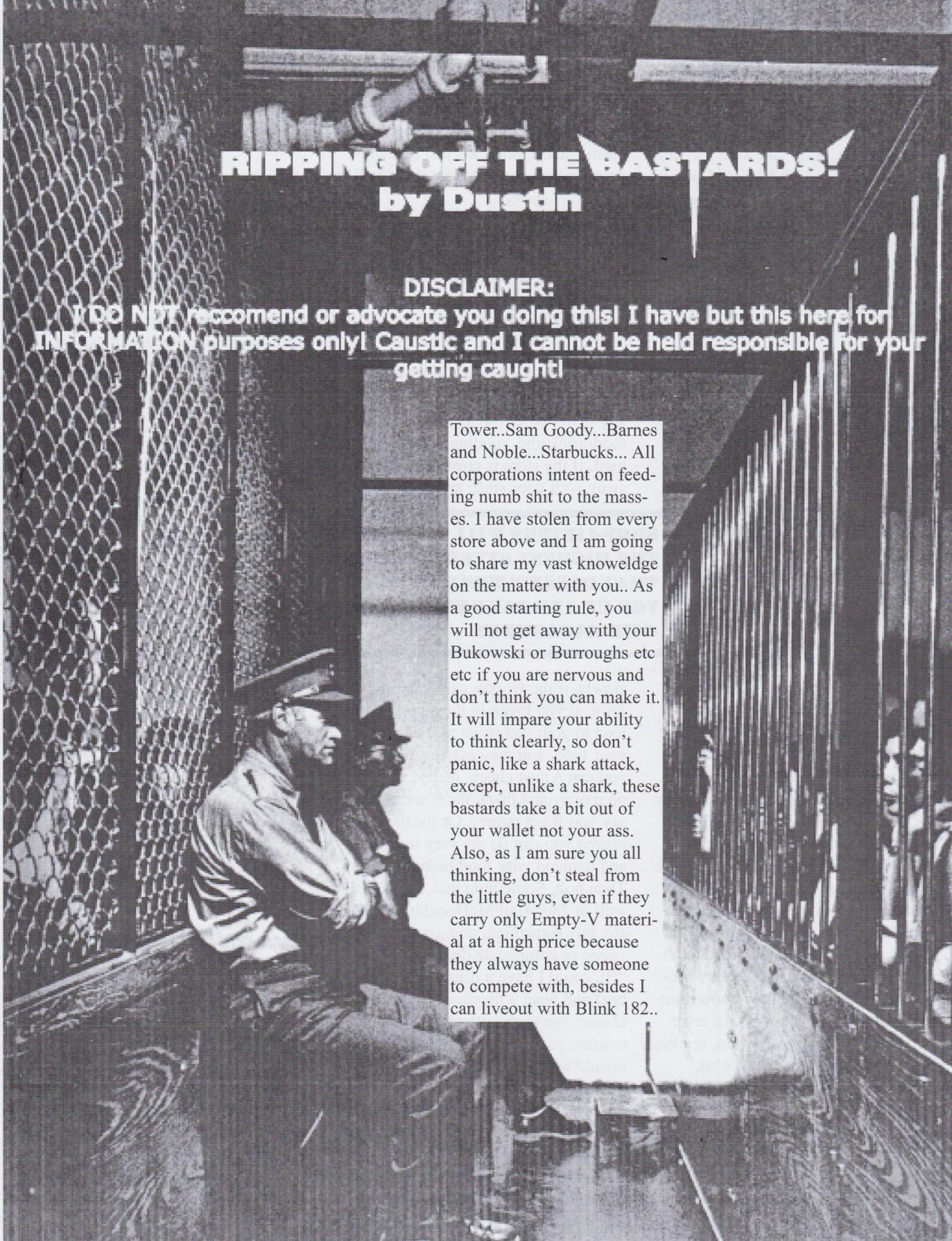
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## RIPPING OFF THE BASTARDS!

by Dustin

### DISCLAIMER:

I DO NOT recommend or advocate you doing this! I have put this here for INFORMATION purposes only! Caustic and I cannot be held responsible for your getting caught!

Tower..Sam Goody...Barnes and Noble...Starbucks... All corporations intent on feeding numb shit to the masses. I have stolen from every store above and I am going to share my vast knowledge on the matter with you.. As a good starting rule, you will not get away with your Bukowski or Burroughs etc etc if you are nervous and don't think you can make it. It will impair your ability to think clearly, so don't panic, like a shark attack, except, unlike a shark, these bastards take a bit out of your wallet not your ass. Also, as I am sure you all thinking, don't steal from the little guys, even if they carry only Empty-V material at a high price because they always have someone to compete with, besides I can liveout with Blink 182..

### **Equipment**-Large pants.

Bondage trousers or jeans won't hold anything. Think army fatigues as they are wider and have a cargo pocket. A jacket is a good idea, but avoid a trench coat or anything too common for a thief. If you have boots wear them under the pants, and make sure they are tight so a get-away is possible if necessary. Ideally you should have a bag from the store, have a friend go in and get you one of those big bags from the store your using and then go in. Maybe pick up whatever you want, provided it's not too big or on display as those are always watched. Now, without further ado, the best ways (for me at least) to steal shit from certain stores:

### **Barnes & Noble**

One thing that always worked for me, was to get a back pack, and put two or three books in it. Go up to the front desk and ask if they take trades. Most likely the don't, if they do, just bullshit your way out of it. But, assuming they say "no", just thank them and walk away to the section you want. Grab a bunch of things you want, and in a blind spot (try the corner where the least activity is, not around cashiers, information etc etc) and slowly slip the books into your bag. I have never seen a book with an attached magnetic strip, they usually just sit in the middle of the book. Flip through the books and they should fall out. If you have CDs, and didn't take off their strip, do what I did. Have a friend buy a cd. And have your friend go pay for it. Put the magnetic strip back on the cd he just got scanned, and walk through the gates with him. It will buzz, you keep walking without looking (if they know your friends, or are with them, it will arise suspicion) They will check him, see the receipt and re-demagnetize his cd, with you walking free.

### **Some notes:**

Bukowski is for some reason always under closer suspicion, same with magazines, as they are almost always in the front of the store. As a very smart

precaution, go on dress-down day. If you have dyed hair or a mohawk etc etc, wear a hat, people are always gonna look at you, and if they call the cops, they have a pretty good description to give. In some cd stores (like the Wall from the Mall) they don't have that plastic guard thing, it's just a magnet strip. So you could A)peel it off or B)do the buddy system.

In stores like Target, the exact same rule applies, move normally, check for strips, put it in your backpack (don't do pockets, they get checked first and bulge) and move out.

In Starbucks (why you would want their coffee is your business) and other things of the sort. The people working are usually really bored, so swapping your food/drink and running shouldn't be hard. If the store is crowded start moving away with your stuff, and walk out

**SHOP-LIFTERS WILL BE PERSECUTED TO THE HIGHEST EXTENT OF THE LAW. IF THAT DOESN'T WORK WE'LL JUST BEAT YOU UP AND TAKE YOUR MONEY  
-THE MANAGEMENT**

slowly, if the worker calls to you, break for it, if you break in the store, people tend to grab you (trust me). If you order your food, and they ask for money first you can A)just check, realise you have no money and thank them and leave, or say you'll get money. Or for the more brazen you can B) get very indignant, and demand your food before you pay. Then bolt. Something that works really well in Taco Bell/McDonalds etc etc etc, buy something, and give them very vague or complicate descriptions ie, "Hi, could I have a bean burrit-no no, a beef and bean with cheese.. do I want cheese..um yeah with cheese, and no onions.. just beef bean cheese and bread.\*wait a sec while the worker gives your order to the "cook"\*\* oh oh.. and sour cream and onion chips, and some sour cream." Get your food, pay and walk to your seat.. start eating and when you \*gasp\* discover an onion, scream in fear and barge through the line. Get very angry and tell the cashier about how alergic you are too onions,

and if you ate just 3 pieces you could vomit yourself into unconscience and a possible coma. Demand they get it right, and say you need a soda or whatever to clear your stomach. If you play it right, you can get a large meal for you and your mates.

### **ATM/STORE CARD MACHINES:**

My friend found this out. On the little card\_slides in groceries and the such, go up to it, and simultaneously push the lower-left button and the upper right button then the upper left button very fast. In some stores it will ask for a password, some however don't. Put in a magnetic card (not a \*gasp\* credit card or debit card because that defeats the whole purpose...just something (my friend uses a Kroq 92 free card) and select debit. Enter 213231 (that works

when I am in NY) and select \$20, \$50, or \$100 dollars. It will print up a receipt for you to take to the cashier, who will give you cash.

### **IF YOU GET CAUGHT:**

If you do for some reason get caught. Try to cry, make up a sob story and of course apologize profusly. They probably won't call the cops. If they do, then your pretty much fucked. Unfortunately, you most likely will never be allowed back in the store (another reason dress down is a good idea because they probably won't recognize you otherwise)

### **WARNING SIGNS:**

In most stores, when they start looking at you, and you notice that staff keep walking by you, abort the mission for another day. In Staples they have a code "Sam Klein to aisle (whatever isle your in)" I believe it's Sam, but it could be something else, Klein it is though. Definitely, if need be, run. Most of all use common sense, and stay cool..

Good luck!  
Dustin

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# Vinyl Views

**324  
Boutokuno-taiyo (HG Fact)** Ah, the sweet brutality of 324. These Japanese

maniacs serve up a crushing serving of grinding death, complete with a few guitar solos. The vocals are the downfall as usual, being unoriginal and limp sounding compared to the surrounding musical intensity. Get this, get crushed. Aaron Lupton !!!.

### THE 440's Flamethrower Love 7" (Steel Cage Records)

**Records**) My definite favourite from the handful of records this time around from Steel Cage. The Dead Boys cover starts it all off, and that's pretty much a no-brainer. The 440's continue on the top notch, octane fuelled punk rock and roll on the flip. Good shit. Brad Mitchell !!!!

### ABSOLUTION Complete Discography (Temperance)

Fast, heavy, crossover-ish late 80's NYHC. These guys were a pre-cursor to Burn and dozens of youth crew bands. These tracks are comprised from a 7", an EP, demo sessions and live material. And almost every song seems sung out of breath which gives it a good sense of urgency, Members eventually went on to Lifeblood and Krackdown. At times, the sound quality is dodgy but this is a classic record nonetheless. Hamish !!!!

### ABSTAIN World Full of Zombies (SOA Records)

Decently brutal grind-crust from Italy. While this isn't the best thrash album I've heard all year, Abstain is a cut above the rest, and their political lyrics are made less stale with dark imagery and metaphors. I knew English class was good for something. Aaron Lupton !!!!

### ALL NATURAL LEMON & LIME FLAVORS Straight Blue Line (Gern Blandsten)

**sten)** After being labelled 'wuss of the week' I was forced to review sleep inducing, boring-as-fuck acoustic music. Here is exhibit A. Any band using a violin deserves to die. Aaron Lupton !

### ALLEGIANCE Heroes in the Making (MCR Com-

**pany)** This is a pretty funny Japanese punk project, even though it isn't really intentional. Think early mohawk punk with some generic pop elements, and you've got Allegiance. The biggest problem with this record is that it's boring, a pretty big sin in the realm of punk rock when you think of it. Aaron Lupton !.

### AMEBIX Arise (Alt Tentacles)

Creepy, brooding doom metal from those anarcho-crusties outta Bristol. While these guys may have influenced bands like Neurosis, Clutch, Sepulatura, and Napalm Death, you might be surprised to find the the music is far more in line to early Killing Joke and Venom and rather gothic. Still mayhem and chaos bubbles just below the surface. Hamish !!

### ANTI HEROES 1000 Nights of Chaos (Taang)

Live album of skinhead/Oi punk. Rowdiness and lotsa beer drinking. Passable covers of the Clash and Patti Smith (of which they send a big 'fuck you' to PC types). Hamish !

### ANTISEEN Sabu 7" (Steel Cage Records)

The opening track is a gruff, dirty slice of drunk punk. Yeah, the tunes fit well with the testosterone fuelled world of pro wrestling, but are ones you wont see on the big label soundtracks. The flip is a slower, dirtier rendition of "Sick Things". Didn't care for that track. Brad Mitchell !!

### THE ATARIS/USELESS ID Let it Burn (Kung Fu Records)

This split cd includes 8 brief songs (averaging about 30 seconds to a minute each) by the Ataris, including a shoddy recording of "San Dimas High School Football Rules" (who miked the vocals? They sound like ass.). Israel's Useless ID checks in here with a Lagwagon-inspired sound. Songs are catchy but also brief. I say, save your money for the full-length, kids. Fern!!!.

### ATARI STAR Moving in The Still Frame (Johanns Face)

Six song Ep of soft building and drifty emo. While not big on the melodic poppy front, this should still appeal to fans of Midwest bands. Picture a mellow God's Reflex meets Weezer. !! Hamish.

### AVSKUM In the Spirit of Destruction (Prank)

Crusty thrash metal punk 5 piece out of Sweden. The vocals are gravelly but hold on being throat piercing. The lyrics deal with financial greed, corporate cover ups and takeover and government oppression. Yeah, it's political but not preachy. A sense of urgency to fight and tear down the system permeates this album, Musically in the realm of F-Minus too. Hamish !!!.

### BELLRAYS Grand Fury

**(Upper Cut)** The Bellrays are one of those sleeper bands. You don't know who the hell they are, but as soon as they've been to your town, you'll never be the same. Many call them Tina Turner fronting the MC5, and they couldn't be more dead-on. In case you're stupid, this is a good thing. High energy songs and a wall of sound that are only heightened by a dynamo of a singer. This music has more soul and groove than should be allowed. Do yourself the favour. Keith Carman !!!!!

### JELLO BIAFRA Become the Media (Alternative Tentacles.)

Become the Media is an entertaining and enlightening overview of Jello Biafra's spoken word deliveries during the tumultuous 2000 election year. Biafra's explanation of actually what the WTO is and why people are protesting is needed information for anyone interested in 2000 events. As someone that came from the region of the Columbine High School, Biafra has insight into this tragedy, as well. This 3-CD set is also an excellent source for understanding the mechanics of the third parties and how Jello received an unasked for 2000 Green Part nomination. While there is much topical repetition here, Jello's humourous, insightful and informative delivery makes every monologue worth hearing. Tom Tearaway. !!!!

### FRANK BLACK AND THE CATHOLICS Dog in the Sand (Sonic Unyon)

After leaving the Pixies, like many ex-front men, Frank Black launched into a spotty solo recording career. In a discography that has had its moments, let it be known that Dog in the Sand is one of the better moments. Pixies' guitarist Joey Santiago is along for the ride on two tracks. This album is a tough, mean brand of indie pop often fueled by

# Vinyl Views



piano (Eric Drew Feldman) for a rollicking effect that help make this album distinctive in his solo output. However, one can not help but notice that the closer Black largely gets to the original Pixies sound, the better his work is. Tom Tearaway. **!!!.5**

## **BLACK HEART PROCES- SIONS Three (Touch and Go)**

It's not punk, well at least not in any sort of traditional definition of the word, but it is good. Slow, dark and depressing and at the same time lush and beautiful. It lulls you into submission, without the required pick me up. Steve Servos **!!!!**

## **BLUELINE MEDIC Work- ing Title in Green (Fueled by Ramen)**

The albums that you want to go on and on never do. Four songs? Come on! Give me something that lasts longer than a cigarette. Strong melodic, emotional punk rock that does just that: it fucking rocks. Steve Servos **!!!!**

**JETT BRANDO The Move-  
ment Toward You (Gern  
Blandsten Records)** A soulful blend of acoustic pop that owes as much to the Beatles as it does to the Flaming Lips. In other words, a complete waste of fucking time. I suppose recording albums like this is better than a career of collecting \$0.25 deposits from shopping carts (marginally.) Listening to it however, it another matter. Aaron Lupton **!!!.5**

**BUTTSCRATCHER 2000-  
Ass The World Turns 7" (Tocado Records)** Despite the awful name and the even more juvenile layout for this record, Buttscratcher 2000 won me over with a good disc of hard European oi! At least they have a sense of humour. I won't leave the record lying around when I play it again. Brad Mitchell **!!!**

**CADILLAC BLINDSIDE  
Read the Book Seen The  
Movie (Soda Jerk)** Catchy upbeat emo core. Take the sincerity of Garrison, Movie Life, Jazz June and Over It. Throw it all in a blender and you'll get this fine album. Hamish **!!!**

**THE CANDY SNATCHERS  
Ugly On The Inside 7" (Get Hip Recordings)** You

can't go wrong with The Candy Snatchers. Spittle inducing drunk punk with all the fixin's. The next time you see a kid with an Offspring t-shirt at the mall, flip him the bird, kick him in the ass, and give him a fucking clue. This is the stuff. Somehow that organ seems to work with this band.....Brad Mitchell **!!!!**

## **CANDY SNATCHERS/ CHEAP DATES (Man's Ruin)**

Split LP, cds are NYC punk rock n roll. A solstickey Nashville Puss (hey, that sounds rude which I'm sure would suit them fine) or Helicopters with guitar parts with very similar to Motorhead. CD have more of a punk aggression with leanings more towards Zeke, Speedealer, or Murder City Devils Hamish. **!!**

**THE CHICKENHAWKS  
Live As Hell 7" (Steel  
Cage Records)** Okay, top marks for having a female singer. That is out of the way. The "live" aspect of the 7" is that the band recorded this right off the floor. And the live recording adds a bit of an edge to it, although the overall sound is a bit lacking. Catchy, uptempo punk with a rock and roll edge. Brad Mitchell **!!!**

## **THE CIRCLES Looking Back (Detour Records)**

The Circles were part of the classic Mod scene with singles and albums out in 1979 and 1980. Detour Records approached them not only to reissue a 1980 live album but reform for a single concert. This led them to start gigging and again and record. Looking Back, their first album in 20 years. They represent the Mod sensibilities of powerful chords contrasted with touching lyrics. Socially aware and experienced, the new material from The Circles is open-eyed, poetic power pop. Tom Tearaway. **!!!**

## **COCKSPARRER England Belongs To Me (Taang!)**

Longtime Brit punk rock 'n' roll which if I'm not mistaken has been around 20 plus years. This album is a collection of singles including covers of the Stones and Clash. Is there an end in sight? Hamish **!!**

**COMBAT 84 Toolled Up!  
(7the Cavalry)** Awww yeah, you just know that these guys have the balls to back up the gusto that they show on this ep.

A killer Oi! band with heavy leanings towards the early 80's extreme punk bands of England, these guys have a ripping sound that is altogether heavy, grinding and ear-pleasing. Unfortunately, they're probably too punk for their own good though, and would scare the shit out of the rest of us with their aggressive sound. No, these guys really know how to make great songs mixed with great lyrical imagery. Die-hards with some ideas of their own! Who woulda guessed it? Keith Carman **!!!!**

## **COMIN' CORRECT/ WHERE FEAR AND WEAPONS MEET (Tem- perance)**

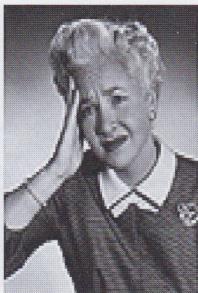
Split ep of both bands putting forth 3 songs each. CC play streetwise NYHC in the vein of AGNOSTIC FRONT (and not unlike singer Rick's other band 25 Ta Life). Moshy with burly vocals. The third song is a Sham 69 cover. WFAWM play raw, rough, fast, old style riffy posicore in the vein of H2O and SOIA. Energetic with catchy choruses. Hamish.

## **COMRADES/AGATHO- CLES Split CD (S.O.A. Records)**

Uh, ya. A split CD that lasts little more than 15 minutes. What a waste of time. The Comrades blast other bands for changing styles faster than changing underwear, but they don't realise that grind metal has been done so many times it isn't even funny to make jokes about it. Blast beats, guttural grunts and screeching wails aren't cool anymore. Even the bands they're mimicking don't do this shit anymore. They offer nothing except the same old, same old, and it isn't even that great of a version anyway. What's worse, is that they recycle an image used by Good Riddance about three years ago. Sad. Agathocles: see Comrades, but with even shittier production. These guys must live in caves, man. Keith Carman **!!!**

## **COUNTERVAIL In The Event of an Unscheduled Landing (Status)**

Producing this CD EP is Eric Stenman (Far, Training for Utopia, Deftones, Will Haven). As such, it contains Countervail's extreme, aggro hardcore with the crisp, top-notch production afforded by Stenman's expertise. While



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commercial at all, this Stenman-produced album is a step away from the noisier onslaughts of the past to something more like distilled, condensed rock-n-roll, a concentration of hardcore. Tom Tearaway !!!.

**CREEP DIVISION s/t  
(Sonic Union)** Moody, singing punk/hc from members of SOIA (Craig Ahead) and GOOD RIDDANCE (Russ and Chuck). Melodic and speedy with a slight theme of striving for a sense of individuality while trying to overcome bullshit. Fans of both bands should dig this easily. Hamish !!!!

**CURL UP AND DIE The Only Good Bug Is A Dead Bug (Status)** From what I can tell, this is a totally independent release, which is amazing considering the professional production. CUAD are a brutally proficient offering from the new school of hardcore, combining Drowningman song structures, Dillinger Escape Plan vocals, and Iron Maiden guitars. This is one of the best releases I've heard in a while from one of the best musical genres ever. So get it. Mosh or be Squashed. Aaron Lupton !!!!!

**DEAD MEADOW (Tolotta Records)** I am usually pretty picky when it comes to stoner rock, especially when gruff vocals are traded in for hippy crooning. But Dead Meadow actually did it for me, with a sound reminiscent of Black Sabbath's Electric Wizard. It may be one dimensional to sound like one song, from one band, but hey, if it works, smoke it. Aaron Lupton !!!!!

**THE DECALS s/t 7" (Fan Attic Records)** Girlie fronted punk rock with a decidedly melodic edge to it. Pretty basic, but enjoyable. You could do worse. Brad Mitchell !!!

**DEMOLITION Road is Free (Answer)** What begins as an intense hardcore thrash EP, slowly becomes substandard Japanese punk, thanks to the annoying vocals. Not that these guys would be doing anything revolutionary with a decent singer, but their amateur appreciation

for Slayer is touching to say the least. Fun, but far from essential. Aaron Lupton !!!

**DESOLATE Eventide of the orb and Heavens (X-rated Records)** I was totally shocked by this one. What would appear to be another amateur metal band is actually a creepy atmospheric dark metal project, not quite black metal, but not quite goth either, just, uh, dark. If this were Desolate's debut, I would say these guys are ones to look out for. If it isn't, this album is a more than worthy addition to your collection. Aaron Lupton !!!!

**THE DOGS/ COTROLLERS Fed Up!/S/T (Dionysus)**

Mixing bits of New York Dolls type rock n' roll with an obvious love for 50's surf tunes, the Dogs have a fun sound that certainly was ahead of its time. What's better, is the Chuck Berry type elements that lend a hearty driving sound to the whole feel. This band must have kicked some crazy ass in their time. You see, they've been doing this since about the mid-70's or so. I don't even know if they still exist, but Alvin Lee, eat your heart out! Taking things to a more punked out affair, the Controllers are pretty much the same deal, with a bit more political edge and a bit less savvy. Still, they are a fun listen, and have a few tunes that would do quite well if covered by some bands with a bit better sense of timing. Keith Carman !!!!

**DOLLICIOUS 7" (Get Hip Recordings)** This sounds like The Ramones on helium. And with a thicker guitar sound. And with an organ. Punk rock from the 60's? Not my cup of tea, especially with the goofy organ running through the two tracks. Brad Mitchell !.5

**CHRIS DODGE/ DAVE WITTE East/ West Blast Test (Slap A Ham)** This thing couldn't be more aptly titled. It's a collection of various blast beats mixed with the occasional jazz groove inside of seconds. Well, 27 tracks in 18 minutes. Heavy guitars crunch over it all at pivotal moments, while the rest of it is covered with various noises and instruments recorded and laid over, making quite the sonic experience. While not quite an album to enjoy for relaxation, the disc is quite easily respected for its innovativeness, ingenuity and fun. If they expanded on some of these ideas. Keith Carman !!!!

vativeness, ingenuity and fun. If they expanded on some of these ideas. Keith Carman !!!!

**DR. KNOW/ HELLIONS/ FANG Fish & Vegetables (Hello)** Dr. Know: Sound like they recorded in a crumbling building. Then again, maybe it was them that made it crumble. Heavy rock that borders on metal.

Crunchy guitars with a singer who's not quite as edgy. Hellions: Have the hyper punk down to a T. Then they kick into heavy riffs. This singer sounds like he shoots his cigarettes with a needle. Screw smoking them. You can almost see the green mohawks, leather and scars. Exploited for the 2000's. Fang: Sound like a mix between the two, but closer to metal. They have a singer who rides the border between edge and clean singer, some pretty crunchy riffs and catchy hooks. A couple of chants make for enjoyable listening. Upbeat and driving sound. It's a damn close finish, people! Keith Carman !!!.

**DROPKICK MURPHY'S/ BUSINESS Mob Mentality Taang** Pretty much a street punk working class Oi! tag team. Both bands cover the other's respective tunes as well as both singing together and submitting civers. Twelve songs in all originally meant as a split 7". You needn't be a Swingin' Utters or Social Distortion fan to dig this. Irish pride in full effect. Hamish !!

**DROPKICK MURHYS Sing Loud Sing Proud (Hell Cat)** Fast, feel good, Boston punk. Oi! Gruff very sing along anthemic songs about Irish pride, glory, fighting and drinking done in a working class, pub song ditty way with further authenticity from bagpipes and tin whistles. Introspective and reflective on good times I can just picture Shane McGowan and The Pogues grinning from ear to ear. Hamish !!!!

**THE DRUNKS Ruin It For Everyone (TKO Records)**

Tough-guy Oi! that manages to stick out, if for no other reason than being good at what they do. Even though I am personally sick to death of the genre, these guys make it a little interesting by praising Elvira as well as drinkin' and fightin'. This one's for you skinheads, although I don't know where you

# Vinyl Views



are. Aaron Lupton !!!!

## DUAP/COLNNA INFAME Split 7" (SOA Records)

Spaghetti oi! Yes, it's from Italy, and nope, I can't understand a word they are gruffly singing. No matter, as this is pretty decent stuff. Again, with most splits, there is usually a stronger band and on this one it's Colonna Infame. Their brand of oi is a little gruffer pumped up with a heavier guitar sound. Brad Mitchell !!!!

## ELECTICS The Look Ahead (Jump Up)

This disc brings together the Eclectics with their friends, most of whom I have no idea who they are (it would have helped if they included the liner notes). With ten songs and six different singers each song is wildly different vocally. And fuck what a great Beach Boys cover with Tim Kinsella (Cap N Jazz/Joan of Arc). It's up tempo rock/ska/pop with bite- surprisingly different and well, eclectic. Steve Servos !!!!

## ELECTRIC WIZARD

**Dopethrone (TMC)** After a four-year hiatus, one of the crucial founders of the UL stoner rock scene returned to the stage with Dopethrone. Electric Wizard evidences a greater aggression level than other stoner rock bands. This is probably due to the fact that before there was a neo-'70's hard rock trend, Electric Wizard were anti-trend. Exploring layers of consciousness through cannabis and the weird images of B-Movie madness is the inspiration to Electric Wizard songs. Tom Tearaway !!!!

## ENSIGN For What It's

**Worth (Nitro)** Four song EP of good, solid, positive and sincere NJHC. Overall, the speed has given way to a more stripped down, metallic feel. Right from the go this will have your head nodding. Hamish !!!

## EXCEL Split Image (Rot-ten)

These guys haven't changed an ounce since Day One. While that's honorable because they refuse to follow trends and stay true to themselves, it's also kind of sad, 'cause they sound like they did 15 years ago. But now, they sound a bit more like D.R.I. Go figure, huh? Still, their old school punk n' thrash sound is enjoyable, riffy and a great trip at the brain. Now if they could

only shorten songs (71 minutes, 21 songs!) and get better production, we'd all be better off. Keith Carman !!!!

## THE EXPLORERS What's What & Who's Who 7"

**(Teenage USA)** This would be a great soundtrack to either an Itchy and Scratchy or a Spy Vs Spy cartoon short. The comical violence would mate perfectly with The Explorers. This band has a swagger that comes across in the music. Mid tempo punk with a definite rockabilly feel to it, but with a beefy attitude. Solid stuff. Brad Mitchell !!!!

## THE EXPLOSION- Flash, Flash, Flash (Jade Tree)

Speedy, political anthems. This album has a Propagandhi air about it. Imagine if Anti-Flag actually took a shower and cleaned themselves. They might sound something like the Explosion. Fern !!

## EXTOL Undeceived

**(Solidstate)** I'm a metalhead at heart and everything, but Extol are just too much for me. At times hardcore, at times dark metal, these guys are almost always annoying with the grating vocals, to the off-kilter song structures. I don't know, I usually like this stuff, but I just couldn't get behind Undeceived at all. I think that's a bad thing. Aaron Lupton !!

## FABULOUS DISASTER Pretty Killers (Evil Eye)

It's bands like this that give the fem rockers such a hard time. It's not that this band sucks per se. It's just that they don't really expand on the borders of what has been done before. They're like a little more laidback version of the Lunachicks, but with a TON of "Deathwish" era L7. They all seem to have their shit together and they can play, but the songs just lack that certain something to make you stand up and want your head kicked in. This sounds more harsh than it should. These girls are really good, but I was just hoping for more. Keith Carman !!!

## FACE TO FACE Stan- dards and Practices

**(Lady Luck/Vagrant)** A cover album by these melodic pop punkers. Jawbreaker, Ramones, Fugazi, Sugar, The Jam, INXS, Smiths, Pogues, Pixies, and Psychedelic Furs all get the treatment. Noth-

ing spectacular. Hamish, !!

## FIREBIRD S/T (TMC)

Radio-friendly stoner rock would be the best way to describe Firebird. Their riffs are pure Sabbath-meets-Fu Manchu, but their sound is just smooth and slick enough to make it to the airwaves. Good songs that could use a bit more edge to them, but these boys should do quite well for themselves. They just need the right push, and all of the QOTSA fans will be clawing for them. Keith Carman !!!!

## FLATUS Blindsided

**(Black Pumpkin)** Flatus put the listener in a bit of a conundrum. While they have an obvious abundance of talent and songwriting creativity, there's something about them that just doesn't quite gel with the ears, because the recording sounds like they're trying a bit too hard. Having an upbeat sound with some pretty heartfelt lyrics (coupled with an impressively strong singer), the band have leanings towards a Bad Religion-meets-Strung Out type of sound that also comes off a bit more rock at times. When these guys get comfortable with themselves, they'll be a force for sure. Keith Carman !!!!

## FOREVER The Art of Cre- ation (Eulogy)

What struck me most about these guys is how much of the vocals sounds like Kevin Seconds, New Wind/Ourselves era 7 Seconds. Too bad the inconsistent music is crap jumping in and out of ballady, jangly and annoying barbrandish rock. The vocals also call to remind the singer of Joshua. Hamish O

## FOREVER GOLDRUSH Halo In My Backpack

**(Cargo/ Headhunter)** Dear God, it's like Neko Case had drunken sex with a dude from Lynyrd Skynyrd and the bastard child ended up being a confused country twanger with a penchant to keep writing pared down versions of "Free Bird." Strong, strong country performers in their own right, Forever Goldrush are not the punk rocker's delight. Still, they deserve many kudos for their straight-out lyrics and heartfelt sound. This is music about respect. Lots of it. Neil Young wishes he was this cool all the time. Keith Carman !!!!



# Vinyl Views

## FOUNDATION S/T (Fueled By Raman)

When a band busts off a terrible acoustic song as their first track, you know you're in for a lot of trouble. What's worse, is it sounds like the singer has been listening to way too much Green Day at that. You keep waiting for it to get heavy and rockin', but to no avail. They're tight, they deserve that, and they sound better than some of the bands that send their shit to us, but these guys belong in folk clubs, not in CT. Keith Carman !!!

## THE FUCK YOU UPS...

**fuck city baby 7" (Formula 13)** Juvenile punk rock. Okay, okay, I know... what other kind of punk is there, right? This sounds like it is being played by 25 year olds acting like they are 15 again. The band also like to use the word "fuck" a lot in their songs. Maybe this would get better with a lot of beer? Pretty lame. Brad Mitchell !!!!

## GAMEFACE/ERRORTYPE 11- What's Up, Bro?

**(Revelation)** Two bands could not be more perfect together than Gameface and Errortype 11. This ep features a three song contribution from each band. After the first listen, I had trouble differentiating between the two bands. Both play soft, melodic emo-style songs. The singers from both bands sound almost exactly the same. I enjoyed the ep, but often I find myself pondering when it was the songs were either going to get more aggressive or more melodic. They verge kinda in the middle and if one would take a little more initiative, it would be that much better. Fern !!!!

## HAMMERLOCK/RANCID VAT Split 7" (Steel Cage Records)

Perhaps this is a split with a theme... an ode to The Whiskey Rebel perhaps? Okay, so he's in Rancid Vat (and I have read his column in Hit List), but obviously he has impressed Hammerlock enough to write a song about him and go on a long winded speech on how great the man is in their liner notes. Musically, punk with a strong rock and roll edge. Not bad, but not a keeper. On the flip is Rancid Vat, who seem to have been plugging away for years. This

is the first time these ears have heard them. Solid stuff. Straight forward punk rock, with an early 80's feel and a great guitar sound. Yeah, I'd enjoy a full length from them for sure. Brad Mitchell !!!

## HEADGRENADE S/T (702)

Headgrenade have just enough rock n' roll in their almost-Oi! sound to make them way fun. Add to this a decided enjoyment of straight-up rock n' roll riffing coupled with catchy melody lines, and it's clear that these boys have their shit together. I think that they were Maiden fans that found grindcore and punk way more amusing. Fun, frolic and craziness are all a part of the program here, kiddies! And they manage to pack about 27 minutes of music into 14 tracks, so you know that they ain't wankin! Enjoy! Keith Carman !!!!

## HOPE CONSPIRACY Cold Blue (Equal Vision)

Holy fuck, this album just smokes. If ever there was a perfect blend between Boys Sets Fire and Judas Factor look no further and with further elements of Earth Crisis and Snapcase. This is a solid album from start to finish! You won't be disappointed. Hamish. !!!!!

## THE IMPOSSIBLES Return (Fueled by Ramen)

Everything about this record lacks any sort of edge. From the liner notes, with four really drab photos of the band, to the music, poppy pseudo punk, more suited for Much Music (and MTV) than your basement show. Don't get me wrong, I'm a fan of poppy-punk, but come on, there's still got to be feeling and intensity Steve Servos !!

## (INTERNATIONAL) NOISE CONSPIRACY The First Conspiracy (G7 Welcoming Committee)

The first INC album of 60's-ish, modest garage, stripped down post punk. Raw tight socio-political protest /activism never sounded so good. Hamish. !!!

## IN/HUMANITY Violent Resignation/The Great American Teenage Suicide Rebellion 1992-1998 (Prank)

Screamy, insane noisecore akin to Assfactor 4 (will somebody... ANY-

BODY PLEASE release AF4 on CD?). This is essentially an anthology, 42 tracks in all. The very chaotic and disturbed harshness might make it difficult for some to take all in this in, in one listen. Hamish. !!!

## JABARA/ @PATIA NO"

**Split 7" (HG Fact)** Jabara open with one hell of a raging punk track. Once you plop the needle down, ya better hold on! Super manic thrashing punk all the way. Their second track is a bit tamer, but still has the grating, buzz saw guitar sound. Whew, this Jap band rages. On the flip, are @patia No, from Argentina who play mid-paced snare happy punk. While these boys are catchy, my needle will stay on the brutal stylings of Jabara. I'd love to hear a full length. Brad Mitchell !!!.

## JESUS PHILBIN Subterranean Electronic Blasphemy (Satan's Pimp)

Simply put, experiments in industrial ambient. Clangs, rattles, liquid drips, sizzles, squeaks, and steam pipes. This seems more about menacing machinery than music period. Picture any film about some space crew on their way to that eerie, un-inhabitable planet and you've got the idea. Because of listening to this if tripped out on drugs. Neurosis and Tribes of Neurot fans welcome. Hamish. !!!.

## JET BOYS I Don't Need Your Love 7" (Vinyl Japan)

Where did this trio come from?! This is brilliant! Two tracks, one being a GG Allin cover, so you know this is gonna rock. The title track is absolutely killer! Lo-fi punk fucking rock. Imagine first generation Black Flag with a dozen or so beers under their belt. Incredible, I need a full length. Brad Mitchell !!!!!

## JETS TO BRAZIL Four Conquered NIGHT (Jade Tree)

A lot of people have griped their disappointment over this second JTB album, particularly over the heart-on-sleeve songs. If Blake has infant gotten in touch with some sensitive side, I don't think it necessarily makes the softer, slower tracks wimpy. Weak? Maybe a little but there certainly is maturity here as the songs seem more expansive than those on "Orange Rhyming Dictionary." The melodic pop is still here but the jury's still out on how this will fare

# Vinyl Views

in the long run. This album will take more than a few listens but in time I think it'll go down as underappreciated. Hamish. !!!

**JIMMY EAT WORLD- self titled (Big Wheel Recreation)** I've been long awaiting the arrival of a new JEW album. Imagine my disappointment when I picked up this cd. There's nothing really new on it, just a collection of previously released songs on old eps. The songs are unpolished and difficult to listen to. Now, I don't want to toot the horns of major labels, but I think JEW sounded much better when they were on Capitol. The song writing was there and so was the production value. Unless you are a diehard JEW world fan, I would avoid this album. Don't be fooled by it's "newness". Fern !!!

### **JOSH FREESE- The Notorious One Man Orgy**

**(Kung Fu)** I really wanted to hate this album. I wanted to call it immature and pathetic, but how can I hate a metal influenced punk album with such songs as "Rock n Roll Chicken", "Ass Backwards" and "Why Won't Left Eye Get with Me?". Why won't Josh Freese get with me? Fern !!!

### **JUNCTION 18 This Vicious Cycle (Fearless)**

Although these guys have a decided influence from Social Distortion, they still have enough of their own bite to be dangerous. Clearly pop/punk to the extraordinaire, they keep songs tight, melodic and full of cool beats. While this type of band isn't exactly my cup of tea, I must admit that they're onto something. Good production, cool songwriting and a nice, crunchy guitar are definite pluses. Keith Carman !!!!

### **KARATE- Unsolved**

**(Southern Records)** Creepy lyrics accompanied by some good guitar licks. Sounds kinda jazzy, maybe. It just doesn't make sense. I'm sure someone out there likes it. Not this kid. Fern !

### **KEEPSAKE She Hums**

**Like a Radio (Eulogy)** Five song EP of light, breezy emo that breaks into some aggressive shouting. Unfortunately not enough as the anger is a compliment that would work here. There's hope I guess. This is even more in tune with Joshua than

label mates Faad. Hamish !!

**KERMIT'S FINGERS/ ZIPPO RAID Split 7" (Fan Attic Records)** Very run-of-the-mill punk rock is delivered on this split, with the up tempo thumpa-thumpa punk rock from Kermit's Finger being the stronger of the two bands on this. Zippo Raid were a little too formulaic and by the numbers for me. Nothing really that will wet your panties Brad Mitchell !!

**THE KILLING FLAME Another Breath (Equal Vision Records)** I thought this was going to be great, but it wasn't. Killing Flame sound a lot like a hardcore version of Pennywise, but far darker and more creative than you might think. Still, annoying vocals and a poignant lack of energy mark this band at the bottom of the Equal Vision roster. Aaron Lupton !!.5

**KING APPARATUS- Marbles (Asian Man)** Local ska heros King Apparatus serve up a large helping of laid back ska. Included on the cd are 15 studio recorded tracks and 4 bonus live tracks. Interestingly enough, there's a song called "Sodom and Toronto". Fern !!!

**KNURL- Periodic Nephromucilaginocity (Total Zero)** This album is wrong for so many reasons! First off, what's up with the pretentious title? What does it even mean? Secondly, as I type this review and listening to the cd, it is slowly creeping me out! This isn't even music! Sounds like KNURL went under the subway system and recorded samples of the rats crawling around in the pipes. Thirdly, the guy spelled Canada "CANANDA". And we thought that Americans were dumb! This cd gave me an absolute headache. Fern -!

**KOUFAX- It Had to Do with Love (H&V)** Upon the first listen, I was totally turned off by the piano, synthesiser and organs. However, upon a second listen during a cold and lonely Sunday night, I found myself humming along to the infectious catchy tunes and feeling better. Pop songs to romanticise by. Fern !!!!

**LANDOS 45 The End (Harmless)** Hey, wadyda know?

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# Vinyl Views

Apparently Trigger Happy broke up, moved south of the border and released this ep under a different guise! What? They didn't? Could a fooled me, 'cause these boys aren't nipping, they're blatantly grabbing the sound, style and uh, everything else right out from under TH's noses. Right down to the hatred! But then again, these guys sound cool doing it, and THE are dead and buried, so. Keith Carman !!!!

### **LEFT OUT- 25 Cent Sere-nade (Plan It X Records)**

An amateur sounding group of punk guys, with clever song titles such as "Fuck Thanksgiving", "Fuck Punk", well you get the picture. The only redeeming quality of this album is a short, uncredited clip from the movie, "Austin Powers". Avoid track 12 at all costs. It's an out of tune cover of "Every Breath You Take" by the Police. Look out boys, Sting is going to kick your ass! Fern !!

### **LES SAVY FAV Rome**

**(Southern)** Can you imagine an emo-type band that were heavily into prog rock? Well, imagine it, bucko, 'cause it's here. These guys may have some way crazy ideas (like writing Rome upside down. We didn't listen), but they certainly could use a little more spice with the music. The struggle at being "out there" just makes for a CD that comes off as a bunch of disjointed musical ideas that could have come out of a 16 year-old's garage band. Are you punk? Are you indie rock? Are you annoying? Uh, well at least you're one of them! Keith Carman !!!.

### **LESS THAN JAKE**

**Greased (No Idea)** The popularity of the Greased album by Less Than Jake has warranted a repressing of the CD. Eight songs, played in a punk style pretty much exclusive to LTJ this CD still sounds great. New design and layout as well as a little explanation from drummer/song-writer Vinnie, the re-issue might finally bring down the price of the original on Ebay. Steve Servos !!!!

### **LIFETIME Seven Inches (Temperance)**

This was original-

ly released on Glue Records. The title is pretty self explanatory as these songs are a culmination of the Tinnitus sessions, first 7" and a cover for a comp also an unlisted track has been added. All these tracks have more of a hard emocore leaning before they took on more of a familiar speedy hc, super-catchy old style with heavy beats and explosive breakdowns. Still, this is sincere with lots of heart. You should own this. Hamish. !!!!

### **LOAD Feel The Power (702)**

Well, the power must have eluded me somewhat. Either that, or it was such a little dose that I didn't notice it, 'cause these boys just don't have it all for me. While they do have an aggressive, driving sound, it just fails to grab me by the gonads and force me to enjoy. Maybe it's been done before, maybe it's not done well enough, but to me it's overdone. Good, but just not enough. It's too much a parody of itself to be taken seriously. Keith Carman!!!

### **LOVE SONGS (New Dis-order)**

I am not sure how this became an album, it being a solo project (mostly) recorded in a garage by someone with little or no knowledge of studio engineering. Tracks range from punk to acoustic to comedy routines. However the one song that actually makes this worth buying, is 'I Turned Into A Medley,' an acoustic medley of every Misfits song under the stars. Sounds strange, but for that, this CD is worth the price of admission. Aaron Lupton !!!!

### **MELVINS Electroretard. (Man's Ruin)**

An 8 song EP with some redone versions of past songs and covers of the Cows and Pink Floyd. Groove-laden sludge heavy, moody pounding rock with a great deal of bass noodling and emphasis on instrumentation that teeters into some noise factor. Artwork by Frank Kozik, Hamish. !!!!

### **THE MICHELLE HUNN BAND Gear Blues (Disas-ter)**

The Michelle Gunn Band's U.S. release of this album, their American recording debut, came out in the States on the last Halloween of the 20th Century. Collectors of the group's thunderous hard rock will note that this disc includes an unlisted track "Jenny." "Jenny" was previously unavailable

on CD outside of Japan. Ten years of interpreting British 80's punk-rock has produced a furious, hard rock machine. Part Blue Cheer and part Peter and the Test Tube Babies, this group is as heavy as they are memorable. This is a fine compromise between rocking out and solid songwriting. Tom Tearaway. !!!!

### **MISTREATERS Grab Them Cakes (Big Neck)**

Growly garage punk akin to Murder City Devils, Zeke, and SpeedDealer. While certainly not as fast as these bands, definitely in the same spirit. Better sound on the vocals wouldn't be nice. Hamish. !!

### **MOCK ORANGE- The Record Play (Lobster Records)**

A sad attempt in the emo genre. There's nothing catchy or gut wrenching here. Feel my pain, I had to listen to this thing. Fern !!

### **MOLOCH- Singular Eco-nomics and the Cre-dence of Fidelity and Geometry (Duckweed Records)**

My initial gut reaction was that Moloch was part Beck, Southern Culture on the Skids, Folk Implosion, but not even close. Strange, very strange. Fern !!

### **THE MORNING SHAKES Piss Off Daddy 7" (Get Hip Recordings)**

Get Hip is quickly becoming a favourite of mine, and with a couple more solid 7" coming my way, the label could even impress me like Junk does. The Morning Shakes crank out some infectious, mid tempo punk with a great rock and roll guitar sound. Granted, the B side is a cover, but I like what I hear so far. Brad Mitchell !!!!

### **THE MOVIE LIFE- This Time Next Year (Revela-tion)**

Generic pop punk without much to offer. There's times when the Movie Life start to get a little bit aggressive and then they suddenly resort back to their Blink 182 ways. Fern !!

### **CHRIS MURRAY One Man Ska Band (Asian Man)**

This isn't kick you in the head good ska, but it's better than a whole lot

# Vinyl Views

that's out there. The acoustic guitar tracks that are stripped down (heartache, ex-darling, strong physical urge) are the best, relying on up-stroke guitar and strong vocal performances. A short, six-song EP, One Man Ska Band would be better if the remaining tracks stuck to this formula. Steve Servos **!!!.5**

## THE NATIONAL ACRO-BAT Can't Stop Casper

**Adams (Status)** There is something loud out of Louisville, something exploding out of the Appalachians with a tumbling rumble, it's The National Acrobat. A few years after their inception, this group releases a CD that starts out like concentrated hard core, turns post-progressive math-y and culminates in a paroxysm of cacophony and sampled conversation. Excellent fare for fans of Today is the Day, Will Haven and other agents of cathartic guitar chaos. Tom Tearaway. **!!!**

## OOZIES Nation Out of Hand (Industrial Strength)

Speedpunk on a heavy lyrical theme of combatting injustice. If you're into Murphy's Law or Black Flag. You might wanna check into this. Produced by ex-DK East Bay Ray. Hamish. **!!**

## PARASITES- Compost

**(Go Kart)** Picture it: January 1996, I was in love with a song called "Crazy" from the album, "Punch Lines" by a pop punk band called the Parasites. I didn't know who they were or what they were all about, but I loved the song and I still swoon every time I hear it. Okay, getting over that, "Composite" is a pretty decent album although it didn't have the same effect on me as "Punch Lines" did. Despite the crappy cover of "Tears on My Pillow", there are still a few catchy songs such as "Top Secret" and "What A Day". The liner notes include a pretty comprehensive history on the Parasites written by Dave Parasite himself. Make

no mistake, the Parasites are no "dumb little pop punk band". Fern **!!!!**



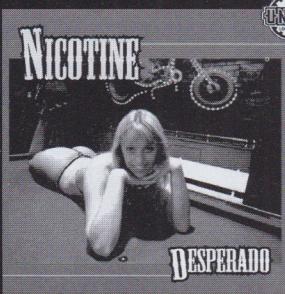
## THE PATTERN Wet Circuit City (7") (Alternative Tentacles)

The Pattern delivers a high-energy blend of blues-core ala Jon Spencer Blues Explosion with '60's British psychedelic R&B and psychedelic rock. Sneering, punk-inflected vocals cap off this fierce quintet's rhythmic rock-n-roll. Tom Tearaway. **!!!.5**

## PHANTOM ROCKERS Psycho Sick Mother-fucker (Hello)

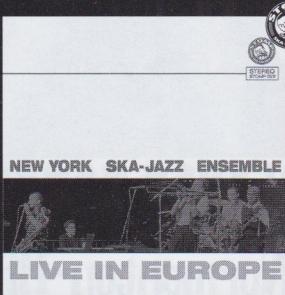
Taking what the Reverend Horton Heat was doing about 10 years ago and adding a bit of a horror element, the Phantom Rockers are onto something here. A killer booming sound rips out of the speakers as the stand-up bassist wraps

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## Vinyl Views

his chunky sound around thumping drums and the guitarist wrenches crazy hollow-body sounds out of his gritty distortion. Nice horror-billy for all of youse who like a bit of blood n' guts with your swang. Keith Carman !!!!!

### THE PHOBES The Beginning of the End (Jump Up)

Simple 60's style rock, with tinges of a mod influence interspersed. It's not fancy, overproduced, flashy or much to look at- but it's strong where it counts, musically and lyrically. A classic three-piece that doesn't hold anything back. Nice. Steve Servos !!!.

### POLIKARPA Y SUE VICIOSAS/DEFUSE Split 7" (Answer Records)

Yikes! Two all female crust bands! Oh my speakers! First up is PYSV, from South America. Nice guitar sound, pretty thick and mid to

up tempo crusty grind. Good stuff. On the flip were Defuse from Japan, playing screechy, grindy crust that was way too over the top for me. Harsh stuff. Am I getting to old for this? Brad Mitchell !!

### PROPAGANDHI Today's Empires, and Tomorrow's Ashes (G7 Welcoming Committee)

At this point to call Propagandhi political would be an understatement. Hell, this long delayed album was released on Feb 6, 2001 as a huge 'fuck you' to Ronald Reagan's 90th birthday. This is the fastest and angriest but certainly most concerned I've heard them. Hypocrisy, oppression, corporate, and national imperialism, politicians, struggle/democracy/freedom, sexism, and USA permeate these songs. Throw them altogether and they literally read as a manifesto. The cd is also a computer enhanced with info and links ups the ass and out of the wazoo. Absolutely amazing and worth the wait. Hamish. !!!!!

### PUSS The Hustle 7"

**(Tocado Records)** This is something that Burning Heart or Epitaph would take a good, long look at. Straightforward, clean, melodic punk rock that isn't anything really challenging. If you like the bands from overseas that are trying to be the next Pennywise, check this out. Orange vinyl, limited to 300. Lotsa luck, bucko. Brad Mitchell !!.

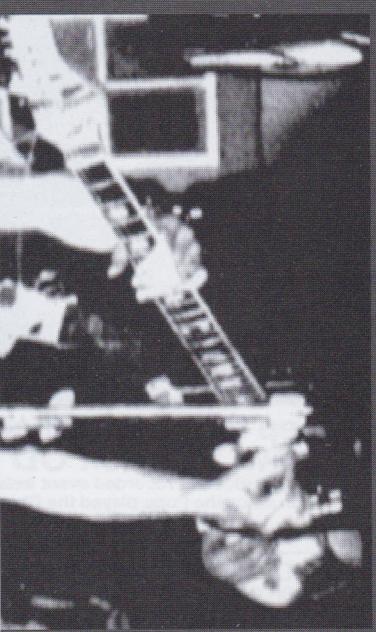
### RABBY FEEBER Disposable Zeros of Rock

**(Hello)** While Rabby Feeber aren't doing anything terribly new with upbeat punk, they're doing it with such enthusiasm that you just gotta love 'em anyway. Some pretty crazy riffs find their way into songs, making for some fun. A touch of southern rock also lends itself nicely to their mostly standard punk sound. With some time and patience, these boys could produce some sweet jams. Keith Carman !!!

### RAW POWER Trust Me

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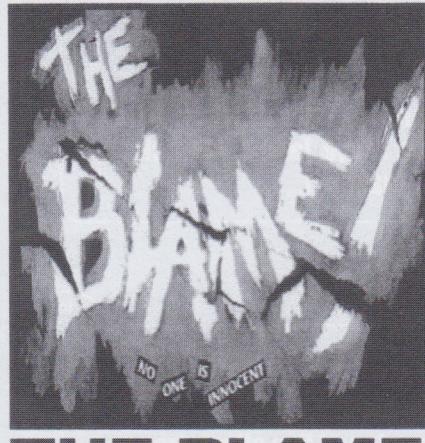
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# Vinyl Views



between those same Southern Speed Punk bands that have been kicking up a lot of shit, and fun bands like the Dayglos, but without the subhuman sense of humour. Wailin' solos, hyper speed and a gritty singer that sounds like he just off the bus from a Sudden Impact or Dogs With Jobs show. If this had come out about 10 years ago, the metalheads would have gone apeshit. But now we can enjoy it without those greaseballs! Keith Carman !!!!

**RECTUM Trip To Heaven 7" (Tocado Records)** Ska, without the horns. Rectum do tread into the harder end of street punk on the last track of this three song EP, but overall, this would be for fans of punkier ska. Not much here to get me to play it again. It would probably fool a Rancid fan. Brad Mitchell!!!

**ROACHPOWDER Atomic Church (The Music Cartel)** Distilled from Monster Magnet and Hawkwind, Roachpowder is a sonic assault of psychedelic stoner rock. There is also a distinct power blues ala Black Sabbath and Mountain in the mix. This Swedish-based band is philosophically allied with such English stoner rock pioneers as Electric Wizard and Orange Goblin that take an experimental, open-minded approach to recreating '70's hard rock. Tom Tearway !!!!

## **ROCKET 455 Cross Eyed 7" (Get Hip Recordings)**

Once this Detroit band hits its stride, which is as soon as the record begins, there is no looking back. Catchy punk rock and roll with a slightly twangier guitar sound than other bands of that ilk. Not much variety in the two tracks on here and I'd guess a whole CD from the band would be a bit mundane but okay in smaller bits. Brad Mitchell !!!

**ROTTEN SOUND Drain (Soa)** Thick and clunky thrash/crust/grind from Scandinavia. I actually played it on 45RPM before I realised it was 33...anyway. Heavy and brooding riffs, with nice counter-point in the high-octaves... Lyrics are personal/political. Pretty much what you would expect from this genre... ROTTEN SOUND is the sort of band that never really leaves the rotation of MY LP player..Dustin !!!!

## **SINCLAIRE- Attention Teenage Girls (Sonic Unyon)**

I think that with this album Sinclaire are going to be catching a lot of people's attention. This album is a solid 11 songs of pure emo pop that had me swooning from beginning to end. I even forgave the shoddy production quality. I think Sinclaire have a bright future in the Canadian indie scene. Let's just hope that they don't do anything embarrassing by appearing on Jonovision. Fern !!!!!

## **THE SLACKERS Wasted Days (Hellcat)**

After 3 studio albums, 1 unofficial debut, and 1 official bootleg, the New York ska crew return with another brilliant release. Initial listenings proved just a tad disappointing, but two weeks later and not a day goes by that I don't spin this disc. They've really matured as musicians and songwriters, displaying a depth and variety rarely seen in any pop music genre, let alone ska. And I'll be damned if this isn't some of the most catchy and well-crafted pop songs ever compiled, with some tracks so insidious they make me sing a long like a lovesick teenage girl. My personal favourite is "Old Days," so good you can imagine Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin crooning it. Oh happy day. And Whitehouse's "Cruis" follows in just a month's time. A loving wife and daughter, a house in the suburbs, a moderately paying office job, and two new albums by two of my favourite bands! Does life get any better than this? Jack Link !!!!!

## **SLIGHT SLAPPERS A Selfish World Called Freedom (HG Fact)**

Okay, I always thought Japanese punk was kind of weird, but this one takes the cake. First of all, can someone please explain to me what 'Slight Slappers' are supposed to be? These guys decorate their CD with pictures of gay Japanese men playing with each other. So call me an ignorant hick, but I was expecting this to be some kind of queer core pop band or something. Yet lo and behold, SS actually play blistering brutal crust core, some of the heaviest stuff around. I think Japan is a very strange place. Aaron Lupton !!!

## **SOUTH 75 A Pickin' And A Sinnin' (Hello)**

Grab onto your balls, 'cause these guys are gonna rip 'em off and shove 'em down your throat. Taking the same elements that made Nashville Pussy, Antiseen and the Hookers some of this continents dirtiest rock n' roll bands and multiplying them tenfold, these guys are on a mission to make dirty, speedy Zeke-meets-a-freight-train grit/speed rock the biggest thing since G.G. Allin. Talent, swing and a killer AC/Greasy cover in under 22 minutes. What else do you need? Keith Carman !!!!!

## **THE SPADES 7" (FM3 RRR Records)**

It's records like this that make me proud to still own a turntable. Hell yeah! Punk rock and roll at its finest. The four tracks were all over in about 5 minutes, with barely a breath to turn the platter over. Solid stuff. Gravely vocals, gruff guitar and a nice fat bottom end. Perfect. Brad Mitchell !!!!!

## **SQUAD FIVE-O Bombs Over Broadway (Tooth & Nail)**

I don't know what's worse, the fact that these guys actually think that bands like Enuff Z'Nuff and Hanoi Rocks are still cool, or the retarded lyrics that they are actually spewing out. Coming off like a not-so-cool Faster Pussycat, these guys have way more attitude than ability. Imagine if the high school geek started to mimic all of the punks he saw, but acted as if he was cooler than the lot of 'em. And unfortunately, it will probably get them somewhere. What a sad, sad, world. Keith Carman !!

## **THE STEREO Three Hundred (Fueled by Ramen)**

By all accounts I shouldn't like this. It's super poppy, pretty mainstream alterna-pop, but it's catchy as all get up. It's one of those albums that stays with a formula, and it works for them. If you like all those other top forty alternative rock bands (insert band name here) then you'll probably like this too. Steve Servos !!!

## **STIFF LITTLE FINGERS Now Then (Captain Oi)**

While Now Then is historically the least commercially successful album, it bears out to be the most enduring and artistically sound. Consistent and solid, Now Then presents the group with a new lineup due to



## Vinyl Views

drummer Dolphin Taylor of the Tom Robinson Band. Looking forward with renewed hope and enthusiasm, but building on the experience of four previous albums they created what may be their best release. Here they have traded in much of their angst with art and produced a better product for it. Tom Tearaway !!!!

### **SWALLOWING SHIT (G7 Welcoming Committee)**

An anthology from this Winnipeg chaotic noisecore unit. Crazy and metallic and surprisingly humours. If bands like Asshole Parade and Dillinger Escape Plan are your cup of tea, this would be worth checking out. Member have moved on to Propagandhi and Malefaction. Hamish. !!!

**STRAIGHT FACED Pulling Teeth (Epitaph)** Johnny's throat-groating vocals never sounded so good. By far the band's most groove-laden, ominous and crescendo driven release to date. Tight building very cohesive California hc . Pick this up. Hamish !!!!!

### **STRCHINE Born Too Loose (Industrial Strength)**

Rumbling East Bay punk that annoyingly employs metal singer that bears a stinking resemblance to Skid Row's Sebastian Bach. I shit you not. Aside from this awful incorporation they find the time to cover Willie Nelson's Kiss and Poison Idea. Hamish. !

### **STRENGTH APPROACH Leaving Home (SOA Records)**

By the numbers euro hardcore. It'd hit more at home with me if the guitar was punched up a bit. As with most styles of this pos-i-core, the band is hooky as hell, but unfortunately without a crunchier guitar it comes off lacking. Brad Mitchell !!!

### **SYNTHETIC 16 Your Water (Resurrection AD)**

Soft and at times dreamy-sh alternarock. This has emo' and very slight brooding punk elements. But the pace is just too draggy. Hamish. !

### **THE TELEGRAPH**

**Switched On (Jump Up)** Ska-pop bands used to come in two varieties. First, groups trying to raise ska to a more popularly accessible and thereby more financially rewarding platform. Secondly, clueless pop rockers trying to be hip. The Telegraph provides the missing link: true ska aficionados with genuine and effective pop sensibilities. Tom Tearaway !!!!.5

### **TONGUE Faulty Parts (Cannibal City)**

Wow, these kids have been listening to way too much Jello Biafra or something. Their sound is like a gutterpunk band that have more stuff to say, than time to say it in. Quite cool for it's unique aspects. The band like to break down into these jazzy/wanky little bits just before kicking back into the main quick tempo. They have talent. They just have to work with it a bit more. It would be nice if they could lay back once in a while, but it's still great to get the adrenaline going. Keith Carman !!!!.5

### **TOTAL VERLEPT Effe Bier Hale 7" (Tocado Records)**

The platter opens up with the title track, an oddly timed street punk number that has the guitarist doing some interesting picking. Where the band really shines is the flip side, "Spring" where they cut loose into some really heavy, evil street punk. The vocals are gruffer and almost growled. Very cool stuff, and a step out of the ordinary Brad Mitchell !!!!

### **TRANS AM Red Line (Thrill Jockey)**

Red Line is an angry, rhythmic blend of kit drumming, quasi-industrial sounds and punctuated lyrics with the cadence of a double-step march. Trans Am sonically blends elements of Chicago's '90's alt-intro scene (Five Style, etc.) and European industrial dance bands like KMFDM and more, like brooding ambient electronica passages. An encompassing opus, Trans Am show themselves here to be multi-directional masters of electro-rock. Tom Tearaway !!!!

### **TRAILER PARK TORNADOS Heroes Of The Hopeless 7" (Big Neck Records)**

Lurking somewhere underneath the terrible production (yeah, I know "production" is an oxymoron when it comes

to DIY punk, but this is BAD) is some competent and enjoyable punk rock. As is, the EP is really a mess. A definite downside to the sonic limitations of vinyl. Brad Mitchell !

### **TRISTAN PSIONIC- Mind the Gap (Sonic Unyon)**

I really wanted to dislike the album after reading mixed reviews about it in various other publications. Truthfully, this is probably by far one of the best indie rock albums I've heard in a long time. And we all thought indie rock was dead. The album starts out with an emo-ish tune, "Promise". The poppy "Red Dots" and "Sunshinin," is pretty good too. An overall decent attempt this time around. Fern !!!!.5

### **UNTIL TODAY s/t 7" (SOA Records)**

After sitting through a handful of mediocre punk EP's it was a refreshing change to be slapped about by some american hardcore. The label plants this as being '88 youth crew stuff, and I ain't one to argue... Brad Mitchell !!!

### **VAN EE Powerplay (H+H Records)**

I'm going to have to talk to my editor about this. What was once a punk 'zine has now lowered itself to reviewing half power metal, half grunge bands, complete with pictures of just how cheezy these hair farmers look. Just pretend you never read this, you may find it easier to sleep at night. Aaron Lupton !

### **VANILLA MUFFINS Blue, Red Forever! 7" (Oi! Strike Records)**

I have seen this band's name around on several comps for quite a while now and have been very curious to hear their brand of oi! Melody is a major factor in the Vanilla Muffins sound, almost to a fault in my eyes as I like my punk and oi! to have an edge to it. This would be cool if I were a 14 year old girl. Definitely not worth the wait Brad Mitchell !

### **THE VAPORS New Clear Day (Captain Oi**

**Records)** This is a new CD issue of The Vapors' debut album featuring their memorable hit, "Turning Japanese." Originally released in 1980, this album was on the very leading edge of post-punk '80's

# Vinyl Views



power pop. This album, sonically, nestles in-between the Buzzcocks and The Kinks. While "Turning Japanese" is well-known to fans of this genre, a good listen to the album as a whole will reveal that, with a trace of bubble gum, The Vapors are very able pop rock songwriters as "Cold War," "America" and more bear out. This release include eight bonus tracks....Tom Tearaway. !!!!!

## **VICE SQUAD No Cause For Concern (Captain Oi!)**

I always thought Vice Squad were one of the more charming of the British punk groups, especially when they became a glam rock band. This is the band's first album, and represents Vice Squad in the raw. But if you're like me, you like that cheezy glam rock stuff better. This one's got Last Rockers, but that's about all it's got. Aaron Lupton !!.5

## **VICE SQUAD Stand Strong Stand Proud (Captain Oi!)**

Stand Strong Stand Proud was Vice Squad's attempt to create a more polished sounding album than their debut, but I can't say this was much of a success. The first two albums sound very much the same, and are for the most part forgettable affairs. On the other hand, if you are a fan, Captain Oi! has provided us with another neat little addition for your library, complete with album history, photos, and bonus tracks. Aaron Lupton !!!.

## **VIGILANTES No Destiny (TKO Records)**

Given their generic name and album title, I predicted that the same would go for their music. But I was really taken aback by this CD. The Vigilantes and beautifully melodic street punk that isn't so much about songwriting, as it is

about creating anthems. If The Dropkick Murphys ever get out of the spotlight, these guys would be a more fitting replacement. This includes a cover of 'Children In Heat,' which alone makes it worth getting. Aaron Lupton !!!!!

## **CHRIS WARE BAND Soul Shakedown (Fan Attic)**

The Chris Ware band have their finger directly on the pulse of cool rock songs. Upbeat affairs that take as much from the Sex Pistols as the do from the Supersuckers, Jerry Lee Lewis or Frank Black for that matter. Simple, fun and effective, this band are a high-energy affair that makes you want to get loaded, dance your fool ass off and hoot until you cough up green stuff. Polished off with really cool indie CD packaging. Keith Carman !!!!

## **THE WARLOCKS The Warlocks (Bomp)**

Bobby Hecksher worked with Beck early on and from there went on to the Brian Jonestown Massacre. Now, he combines the neo-psy-

chedelic swirl with alt-pop in The Warlocks. Hecksher has an admitted like for Sonic Youth, Velvet Underground and Spaceman 3. This art-noise pop inspiration works through the half-dozen lengthy odes on this debut release. The music is colourful in a lysergic, paisley and vaguely punk way with a cannabis whiff of stoner rock. Tom Tearaway. !!!!.5

## **THE WAYOUTS s/t 7" (Harmless Records)**

Sappy, crappy, teeny bopper punk rock that is about as dangerous as a stick of warm butter. This makes me want to watch the Wizard Of Oz and actually CHEER for Dorothy to get home. Harmless records indeed. Brad Mitchell **This rates a zilch**

**THE WORTHLESS Slow City (Taang Records)** Very similar to the Dead Milkmen, The Worthless

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# Vinyl Views

have a sound that starts off annoying but then grows on you. By half way through the CD, you are fixed on the vocals, as singer Chris Skolmowski spews forth hilarious ditties about girls, fighting, girls, beer, and girls. Worth checking out if you love The Bodies or the Dead Milkmen. Aaron Lupton **!!!!.5**

### **V/A - Cargo Area (Cargo)**

Not the greatest album, pretty well uninspired. Its one of those Compilations you forget 5 minutes after its over. one upside was the Phantom Shifters (hometown pride!) I seriously love this band. Good idea for a comp, just a shame they couldn't grow on it..... Graham Threat. **!!**

### **VARIOUS Cheap Shots & Low Blows - TKO Singles and EPs Collection Vol. 1 (TKO Records)**

This is a CD designed for fans of TKO's street punk who don't own a record player. All those 7inches you couldn't listen to before are now available on this CD. Like Templars, Anti-Heroes, or Dropkick Murphys? This one's for you baby. Aaron Lupton **!!!!**

### **VARIOUS I Used To Fuck People Like You In Prison (People Like You)**

A compilation of mostly southern-rock n' roll inspired bands. You know, the stuff that Man's Ruin is in love with. High-energy Hookers type stuff, but most of these bands don't have that same killer instinct. Still, this label shows some promise with the bands featured here. It will just be a matter of time before we see if they break out into the world of known troublemakers, or if they'll stay in obscurity forever. Keith Carman **!!!!**

### **VA Old Skars And Upstarts 2001 (Disaster)**

Nearly thirty-different active punk rock groups signed on for this energetic compilation fairly documenting the state of American punk rock at the dawn of the new millennium. It appears that punk is not dead, as the sounds from U.S. Bombs, Duane Peters & The Hunns, plus Fruit Cocktail featuring Greg Lee, Al Barr, Stephen Jackson, Tim Armstrong and Duane Peters and more

attest. Peters is all over the comp as it seems the U.S. Bomb's West Coast skate punk sound reigns supreme in the clubs and off the airwaves as can be heard in the nearly two dozen other groups. Tom Tearaway **!!!!.5**

**V/A-Ragin Thrash From Blind Vision-(Answer)** The title says it all! Crushing thrash/crust from Japan. Very nice Layout with a fold-out poster I am still trying to figure out... bands include THE VICTIMS RESIDENTS OF CHAOS and EXTERMINATE...The usual male/female vox with translations from Japanese to English and Vice Versa. You can't tell if they sing in Japanese or English, which is a good thing I guess! Definitely worth it for you multi-national crusties... Dustin **!!!!**

### **VARIOUS Straight Up Records Sampler 2 (Straight Up Records)**

Another sampler of previously released material, most of it being old, as in two years old. Tracks from Mustang, No Choice In This Matter, and Oi Vulcans are the template for which most Japanese hardcore fits. The best thing about these bands are the funny lyrics, and this didn't come with a lyrics sheet, so overall I wasn't all that impressed. Aaron Lupton **!! .5**

### **VA The Ecstasy of The Agony (Alt. Tentacles)**

Thirty song label sampler with a few exclusive and previously un-released tracks. Nomeansno, Pitchshifter, SNFU, Lard, Noam Chomsky, Mumia, Angela Davis, Jello, Howard Zinn, and Wesley Willis are the more tables here. Hamish.!

### **PICK OF THE MONTH:** BELLRAYS Grand Fury

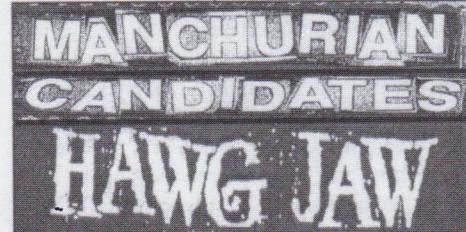
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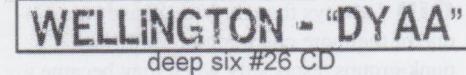
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track, demo tracks and live

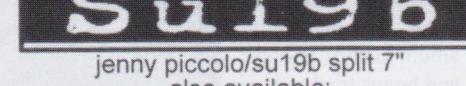


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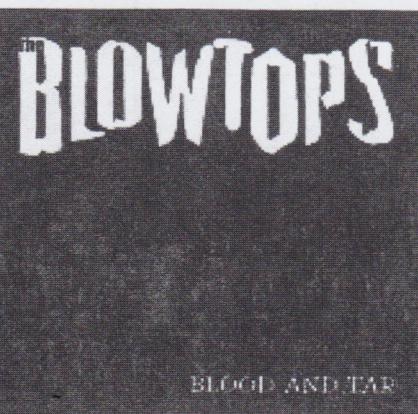


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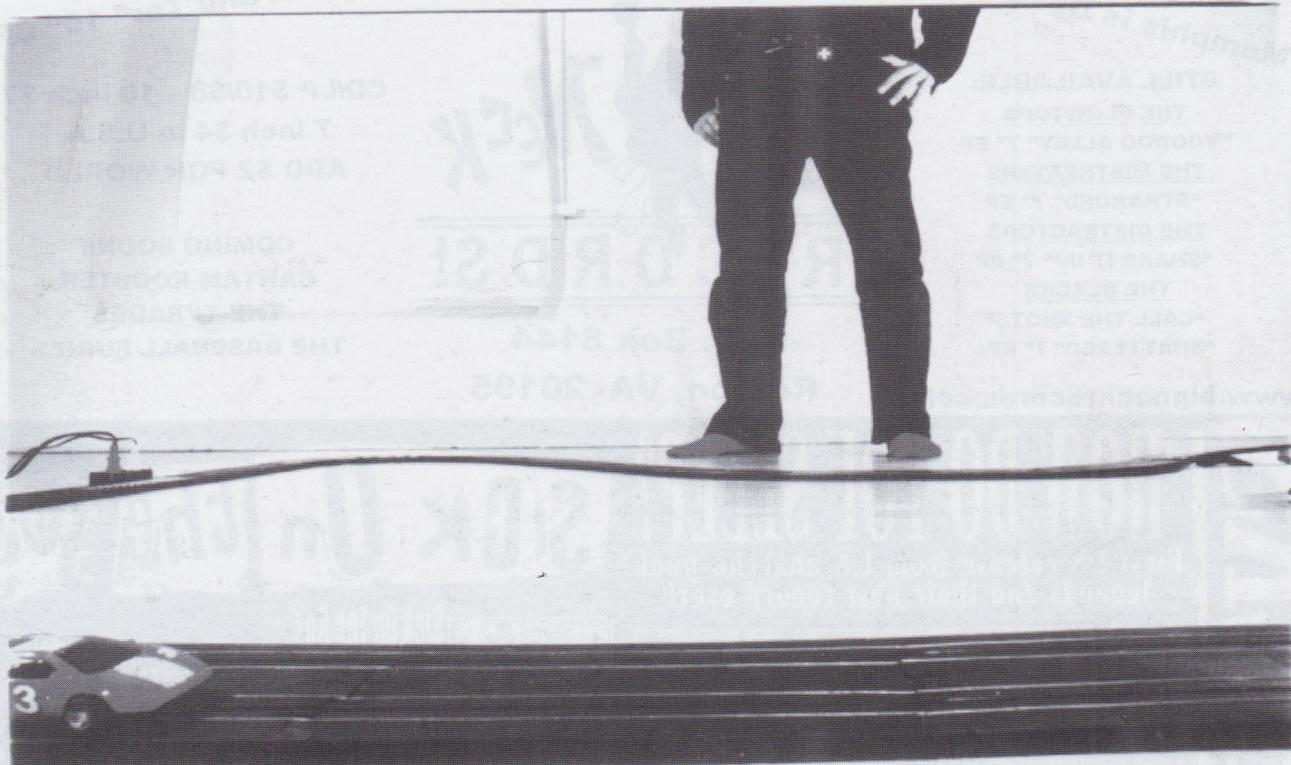


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